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Defense Ministry 'Expert' on Chemical Weapons
LD311408 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1145 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, 31 Mar (TASS)—"There has been a great deal of speculation in the West, particularly in the past few years, about Soviet stockpiles of chemical weapons; it was said that they exceed those of the United States by a lot", NOVOYE VREMYA was told in an interview given by Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kuntsevich [name as received], chief expert of the USSR Ministry of Defense. To put an end to all manner of rumors and disproportionate exaggerations, he stressed, we made the size of our arsenal public. Currently this figure is known: approximately 50,000 tonnes; that is to say that in this area, too, there exists an approximate parity. Moreover, none of our chemical weapons are outside the USSR.

Nonetheless, Washington has recently announced the start of production of binary warheads [boyepripasy], the expert noted. What is to be found behind this decision, first and foremost, is the desire to improve and considerably step up its chemical potential.

Apart from the depressing decision on binary weapons, the U.S. delegation at the talks in Geneva is of late starting to move away from the complete ban on chemical weapons and their elimination, as envisaged by the future convention. The U.S. envoys are talking about the partial banning of the "silent" killers and proposing half-and-half, abbreviated measures.

For a long time the United States and some Western countries have been putting forward the problem of verification [kontrol] of its observance as an impediment to the conclusion of the convention, the expert continued. The Soviet side has done away with these questions, having agreed with almost all the proposals made by its partners. But here the United States has already begun to go into reverse, referring to the fact that verification is supposedly impossible at private firms and enterprises. This means they are seeking loopholes for possibly circumventing the convention.

In this connection the USSR expert noted that the appearance of binary warheads in U.S. arms makes the problem of verification extremely complicated. But binary weapons should be embraced by the convention; that is, subject to destruction.

Replying to a question on the rationality of the USSR's decision to cease the production of chemical weapons in the conditions that have taken shape, Anatoliy Kutsevich [as received] noted: If we talk about the interests of security of the USSR and its allies, then the further development of events must compel us to regard in the most serious manner the fact that the United States now has new, extremely dangerous toxic substances in its weapons. The binary weapon is becoming the "super weapon." Naturally, for the moment we should not make the position in Geneva harder or slam the door of the negotiations even tighter. That would be unreasonable. The main thing at the moment is to do everything possible to ensure the success of the Geneva forum.

Solton Describes Treaty Ratification Progress
LD311700 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] The United States has concluded the first phase of hearings on the Soviet-U.S. treaty on eliminating medium-range and shorter-range missiles signed in Washington on 8 December. Its Committee on Foreign Relations recommended by 17 votes against 2 to approve the treaty and to agree to ratify it. The full Senate will begin to discuss the INF Treaty in April after its Easter recess. Is it possible now to be convinced that the treaty will be ratified: Yuriy Solton elaborates:

[Solton] I believe that this question can be answered in the affirmative, though one cannot be 100 percent sure. The opponents of the treaty submitted to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations more than 40 amendments and reservations. They threatened to fight in the Senate too, and to kill the treaty by amendments. Nevertheless, I think that most of the senators will not follow them. Two-thirds of the votes are required for ratification. The committee recommended the Senate to stipulate during ratification that the treaty cannot be altered without its consent. The reason for such recommendation is this: The administration has already attempted to apply broad interpretation to a treaty ratified by the Senate.

The White House tried to interpret more broadly the Anti-Ballistic Missiles Treaty signed in 1972 when it saw the document as an obstacle to the implementation of its Star Wars program. The process of ratifying the INF Treaty continues in the Soviet Union, too. The Foreign Affairs Commissions of the two houses of the Supreme Soviet and a working group are carefully studying the treaty. I've attended their sessions, and got convinced that the treaty is supported virtually unanimously. Besides, the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty countries at their conference held in Sofia this week called for concluding the process of ratification without delay. They view the INF Treaty as the first step to be followed by new agreements aimed at reducing strategic offensive weapons and preventing an arms race in space and eliminating chemical weapons and at reducing conventional arms and troops in Europe.

All these questions are to be expected to be discussed during the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting to be held in Moscow from 29 May to 2 June. If both countries ratify the INF Treaty by that time, this will be greatly conducive to precluding pauses in the process of genuine disarmament.

Chernyshev on Conventional War Consequences
PM311525 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 88 Second Edition p 3

[Candidate of Technical Sciences Colonel V. Chernyshev article: "Conventional War in Europe? On One of the Theses Put Forward by Western Opponents of Nuclear Disarmament"]

[Text] The argument which Western opponents of nuclear disarmament use most often boils down to the claim that there has been no "major" war in the world for more than 40 years allegedly owing to the existence of nuclear weapons, whereas conventional armaments supposedly did not prevent two world wars. Therefore, there is supposedly no alternative in the foreseeable future to the "flexible response" strategy based on the combination of nuclear and conventional forces.

Describing this strategy, U.S. Congressman C. Bennett recently wrote in the THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: "We are retaining the possibility of using nuclear weapons in the event of conventional systems not bringing us success... Although the threat of an escalation of the use of nuclear armaments is a powerful potential deterrent against attack, war is nevertheless possible..." These words confirm that people in the United States and NATO proceed on the basis that war is possible between the two military-political alliances in Europe.

The level of military confrontation in Europe is too great and is therefore dangerous. Huge groupings of NATO and Warsaw Pact Armed Forces confront one another here. Yet the buildup of nuclear potential continues. Conventional arms are being developed to fundamentally new levels—their power, accuracy, speed, and range are increasing. War involving conventional systems is less and less susceptible to any kind of limitation both in terms of the severity of the consequences and also in terms of the size of the losses. It is becoming increasingly difficult to count on victory in such a war.

The destructive consequences of a war using conventional systems have become practically comparable with the aftereffects of a nuclear war. In the assessment of FRG Bundeswehr specialists, for instance, a conventional war in Europe lasting only 20 days would be as destructive in terms of its consequences as a nuclear war lasing 5 days.

The catastrophic consequences of a conventional war, if unleashed, would be aggravated by a number of other factors, in particular the fact that there are nuclear power stations and power installations on European territory. Only a few artillery shells are needed to destroy one nuclear reactor and if it is destroyed by "conventional" systems it must be regarded as a nuclear munitions explosion with all the consequences thereof. For according to Western specialists, the complete destruction of a 1 gigawatt nuclear reactor is equivalent in terms of its short-term radiation effect to the explosion of a 1-megaton bomb. And 1 gigawatt is equivalent in terms of long-term radiation consequences to a 10-megaton explosion.

The tragedy of Chernobyl must serve to remind us of the danger which the destruction of a nuclear power unit brings to a huge area. Yet Europe has more than 150 such power units, which could be transformed into detonated nuclear munitions after bombardment or aerial bombing.

There would be no one to tackle the elimination of the consequences and there would be barely enough hospital beds for one-tenth of the population affected.

The same can be said of the destruction of chemical enterprises. Their bombardment with conventional munitions would have a massive effect. The tragedy of the Indian city of Bhopal must constantly serve as a dreadful warning to those who are intending to wage war with conventional weapons on a continent like Europe. Let us recall that in December 1985, when 45 tonnes of toxic gas escaped from U.S. Union Carbide Corporation storage tanks, a poisonous cloud descended on the city district of Bhopal. Approximately 3,000 lives were lost instantly, 250,000 maimed, poisoned, and sick—that, according to official data, is the result of this accident. Years will have elapsed before the ruinous consequences of this catastrophe at just one chemical plant are eliminated. How many such giant enterprises are there on the European continent?

I can also cite another fact. A special commission which investigated 15 chemical plants and factories in just one city in the FRG—Duesseldorf—at the end of 1987 established that colossal stocks of toxic substances presenting a danger to man's health were stored there. A large quantity of drums containing sodium cyanide, which had been simply thrown in a heap in a warehouse, was uncovered at one factory. Yet 15 milligrams of this substance is fatal!

Storage facilities where radioactive substances are housed and nuclear waste is buried constitute a terrible danger in this context. According to data in the West German press, the Alkem firm in Hanau (FRG) alone keeps in its warehouses no less than 5-6 tonnes of plutonium and the RBU firm, which produces nuclear fuel for nuclear reactors, is expanding its storage capacities for Uranium-235 from 1,800 to 6,000 kg.

According to data from the FRG Physical and Technical Department tens of thousands (!) of drums, concrete and metal vessels, and containers of radioactive waste are kept at West German nuclear power engineering enterprises. Their overall volume amounts to 40,000 cubic meters. Moreover, approximately 300 tonnes of used fuel rods leave FRG nuclear power stations annually. All these materials will emit lethal radiation for many centuries.

What would happen if conventional bombs and shells were to "rip open" the earth, destroy the special storage facilities, and "spill out" all these radioactive materials onto the surface? Is it sensible to drop lighted matches when you are standing next to a gasolene pump or to throw grenades when you are sitting on a powder keg? Indisputably, any sensible person will answer this question in the negative.

Nevertheless, there are also people in NATO countries who talk about the possibility of waging a conventional war. Of course it is possible to ignore the peace-loving nature of socialism and in the final analysis it is possible not to trust in the sincerity of the socialist countries, who have proclaimed their military doctrine to be the doctrine of preventing any war. This is, so to speak, the purely subjective NATO idea of the other side, its policy, and its intentions. However, objective factors, which indicate that war in Europe, whatever the means used, is ruinous, cannot be ignored.

The European disarmament program expounded in the 1986 Warsaw Pact Budapest Appeal is geared to radically reducing conventional armed forces and arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals and establishing a level of military potentials which would only provide the sides with defense capability but would not enable them to undertake offensive operations. This is the path which offers the possibility of changing the military-political situation in Europe for the better.

Along with the proposals for a substantial reduction in military confrontation in Europe, the USSR and the other socialist countries are proposing a series of confidence-building measures, including measures which would preclude the sudden outbreak of war in Europe. We are talking specifically about reducing the concentration of armed forces and arms to a minimum agreed level in the zone where the two military alliances come into contact; withdrawing the most dangerous offensive types of weapons from this zone; and creating a nuclear-free corridor along the line where the Warsaw Pact and NATO come into contact from where all nuclear weapons would be withdrawn on a reciprocal basis.

While proposing progress toward a nuclear-free world, the Soviet Union in no way intends a return to the situation which existed before the two world wars and before the creation of nuclear weapons. The real way to prevent war is to substantially reduce the level of military confrontation and strengthen mutual trust.

Further on Sofia Pact Foreign Ministers Meeting

Shevardnadze Grants Interview

PM311531 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 88 Morning Editio: p 5

[TASS report under the headline "On the Afghan-Pakistani Talks in Geneva: E.A. Shevardnadze Interview in RABOTNICHESKO DELO"]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign minister, granted an interview to the newspaper RABOTNICHESKO DELO when he stayed in Sofia during a recent session of the Foreign Ministers' Committee of the Warsaw Treaty countries.

Question: Afghan-Pakistani talks are under way in Geneva on a political settlement regarding Afghanistan. What is the situation at the talks? What can be expected from them? But before answering these questions, could you say first a few words perhaps about Geneva documents and the commitments to be made under them by the sides involved in the settlement?

Reply: It is indeed essential first to make it clear what the "Geneva documents" are all about. To put it in a nutshell, they are drafts of several agreements worked out in the course of a diplomatic process launched on the initiative of the U.N. secretary general and pursued through his personal envoy since June 1982.

Let me stress that we are talking about negotiations between two governments—those of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The draft document on the relationship says that "The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have embarked on talks" and sets forth the principles of international law, which should underlie a political settlement of the situation regarding Afghanistan.

These include:

—The commitment not to interfere in affairs which are within the domestic competence of any state, in keeping with the U.N. Charter.

—The principle of the sovereign equality of states.

It also lists the documents constituting "integral parts of the political settlement".

There are three such documents.

The first is a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the principles of their relationship, in particular noninterference and the renunciation of intervention.

The second is a declaration (or declarations) on the international guarantees of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

The third is a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the voluntary return of refugees.

It is these documents as well as the one of the relationship that form the so-called Geneva package. Attached is a "memorandum on understanding" which covers the technical matter of creating and using a mechanism to verify the sides' abidance by their commitments.

All the agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan have the nature of classical international agreements, in which the sides act as equal, sovereign entities and all the obligations are based on reciprocity.

The format of a newspaper interview, alas, does not allow for the possibility of citing all the obligations. But I shall quote some of them. The sides have made the mutual commitments:

—"To respect the sovereignty and inalienable right of the other side to freely determine its own political, economic, cultural and social system and develop its international relations..."

—"To refrain from direct or indirect assistance, encouragement or support to insurgent or secessionist activities against the other side."

—"To refrain from concluding any agreements or understandings with other states, which would be directed at intervention or interference in the internal and external affairs of the other side."

I would like to call attention to the fact that all these drafts were hammered out before the current round of the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva. It only remained to fill in the blank spot in the document on the relationship by entering a time-frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops that would be acceptable to all sides. That was done in the very beginning of the round. Nine months were accepted as the time frame.

There remained, however, one outstanding issue—the mention in one of the general clauses of "internationally recognized borders". The understanding before the current round was—and there were serious grounds for it—that a compromise would be found on that formula.

The Pakistani side has now made it the stumbling block.

Question: What is the problem?

Reply: The actual borderline between Afghanistan and Pakistan coincides with the "Durand Line" arbitrarily drawn by British colonizers late in the last century. The line passes through an area inhabited by Pashtuns.

In any country the frontier is a sensitive and emotional issue. It bears on the very pivot of statehood—the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Of course, it is not the issue that could be resolved in passing by including three words in a document which has nothing to do with fixing the borderline.

I believe that no Afghan Government can agree to it since that would be betraying the national interests of the country in general and the Pashtuns in particular.

As far as we know, no one among the leaders of the "alliance of the seven" based in Pakistan supports the Pakistani position on the border. At any rate, not a word to the opposite effect has ever been heard by anyone from the leaders of the "alliance". Those doubting that can go for explanations to the leaders of the Afghan opposition and ask their opinion on this score.

Islamabad's attempts to take advantage of what appears to it a favorable concurrence of circumstances and solve a problem that has remained a bone of contention for many years are unable and, in the context of an Afghan settlement, also immoral.

Let me add that Afghanistan holds a constructive position on the issue of a border settlement with Pakistan. It does not rule out separate diplomatic talks on this contentious issue.

As far as we know, the Afghan side was prepared to agree to a compromise wording in the Geneva agreements, which would use the term "the existing borderline". This is, to our view, a very constructive approach.

Question: Uncertainty has arisen lately over whether the United States will act as a guarantor of the Afghan-Pakistani agreements. Can you clarify the issue?

Reply: Let me say first what a guarantor is in an Afghan-Pakistani settlement. It is a country which:

—Supports an Afghan-Pakistani diplomatic settlement.

—Is willing to facilitate the attainment of the goals of the settlement on the basis of respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and nonaligned status of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

—Commits itself to refraining without fail from interference and intervention in any form in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan and Pakistan and to honoring the obligations specified in the bilateral agreement between these countries on the principles of their relationship, in particular noninterference and the renunciation of intervention.

The rules here are the same for both the Soviet Union and the United States.

It is known, however, that the U.S. Government has declared that it will continue to give aid to Afghan opposition forces. In practice this means that the United States will demand from Pakistan that it should keep passing U.S. weapons on to anti-government Afghan groups as there simply is no other way how the Americans can provide this aid. In other words, they are out to make Pakistan violate its commitments under the Geneva agreements. The United States in this way is both meddling in the home affairs of Pakistan, by foisting a definite line of conduct on it, and acting in a way that is far from supportive of an Afghan-Pakistani settlement.

It is, frankly speaking, inconceivable to hold this posture and remain a guarantor. It appears that the United States in its time agreed to be a guarantor without believing that Soviet troops would ever leave Afghanistan or even perhaps being reluctant to see that.

Question: U.S. Administration officials seek to justify their position by speaking of the need for "symmetry" in arms supplies by the Soviet Union and the United States and propose a moratorium on such shipments.

Reply: We were very surprised when the U.S. secretary of state proposed that "moratorium". Diplomats with greater experience than mine cannot remember the United States ever speaking positively of a moratorium. Whatever was at issue, the word itself invariably caused allergy in them.

For us, however, "moratorium" is a good word. So why is our attitude to a moratorium negative in this case?

The matter is not even that the suggested moratorium is lop-sided and unfair. For the Afghan opposition the United States is the main weapons supplier even if not the only one. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, by contrast, can receive the weapons it needs for self-defense from a substantially narrower circle of countries.

We reject this idea not at all for any formal considerations. For nowhere, not in a single agreed document, is there any mention of any "symmetry" or "moratorium" on arms supplies. These pathetic arguments were thought up at the last moment when just one step remained to the signature of the Geneva agreements.

The moratorium is unacceptable to us also because it means interference in our relations with a sovereign state, a U.N. member, which has diplomatic relations with the United States as well. The Soviet Union supplies arms to Afghanistan under intergovernmental treaties and intergovernmental agreements. We have maintained such relations with Afghanistan since 1921.

The United States is now inviting us to break these treaties and agreements and stop honoring our commitments under them. This is a wholly illegitimate position. It is illegitimate also in the sense that it is aimed at the de

facto formalization [yavochnym poryadkom protashchit] of the idea that there allegedly is no difference between the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, which represents its country in the United Nations and other international organizations, and the leaders of the "alliance of the seven".

Legalizing their status as something more than a group engaging in armed struggle against a lawful government is one of the goals of both the proposed moratorium and the statements on symmetry in arms supplies. We cannot, of course, support this goal.

The Soviet Union will remain faithful to its word and to its commitments under the treaties and agreements it has with the Republic of Afghanistan.

Question: Doesn't it follow from the U.S. stand that the United States can refrain from signing the declaration on international guarantees?

Reply: The United States is indeed, as far as we can see, linking its participation in the guarantees with the acceptance of the far from symmetrical moratorium it has proposed. Well, it is itself to decide whether it will share in the guarantees or not. It would certainly be better if it becomes a guarantor. But it is quite possible, in our opinion, to conclude the Geneva process without the U.S. guarantees as well, the more so as geographically the region is not connected with the United States in any way. In this case the settlement scheme could look as follows: The bilateral agreements will be signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan, while the document on the relationship will be signed by Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Soviet Union since this document speaks of the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Question: Is there the theoretical possibility of the Afghan problem being settled and the Soviet troops returned home without the signature of the Geneva documents? What will be the basis for the troop withdrawal in such a case?

Reply: We would, of course, like to see the Geneva talks end in success. You know that both the Afghan and the Soviet sides have been doing everything depending on them to make this certain and have been following a flexible and constructive line. That the Geneva talks have now reached a point just a step away from the signature of the documents is to a significant extent due to the efforts of Afghanistan and the USSR. We would like to see the agreements signed. Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, said this clearly in his statement on Afghanistan ahead of this round of the Afghan-Pakistani talks. But there are also other sides taking part in the Geneva negotiations. Not everything depends solely on us and the Afghan Government. This is why one cannot but take into account the possibility that the talks may not lead to the accords expected from them.

If this happens, we shall not see this outcome as something unexpected: We have taken into account and analyzed such a possibility as well. Our political decision on the troop withdrawal remains unchanged. But we shall be acting then not on the basis of multilateral agreements, which the Geneva documents effectively are, but on the basis of a separate agreement which we shall work out in this case with Afghanistan. We shall be acting in a way convenient for the Government of Afghanistan and ourselves. But let me say it once more: We wish success to the Geneva negotiations and do justice to the efforts made by the personal envoy of the U.N. secrtary general.

We still hope that the Pakistani leadership will thoroughly consider its national interests before saying the final "no". Pakistan and Afghanistan are neighbors and will remain ones for ages. Can the Pakistanis be indifferent to what their further relations with Afghanistan will be? Now they have the historic chance to lay solid groundwork for a future peaceful and goodneighborly relationship. A state, a nation cannot live by the present day alone. One would like to hope that the Pakistani leadership will think of its country's tomorrow as well.

I believe that success to the Geneva talks is wished by everybody really caring for the fate of the Afghan people and really interested in peace and calm in Afghanistan.

Question: Could you speak of your impressions from the Sofia meeting of the Foreign Ministers' Committee of the Warsaw Treaty countries?

Reply: Without being afraid to appear too emotional, let me say that this meeting in Sofia has been particularly gladdening and inspiring to us, first of all with its working atmosphere and intellectual content. My colleagues and friends in their statements have presented a broad panorama of currents of fruitful foreign policy ideas that form the common capital of our community. Each of these ideas is working and thus, naturally, adding to the international prestige of the alliance and to its positive influence on world affairs.

Let me mention, by way of an example, the initiative of our Bulgarian friends, which provides for creating a zone free from nuclear weapons in the Balkans. By having actively worked to organize a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, Bulgaria has taken the initiative appreciably close to its practical realization.

If we add to this the faultless organization of the Sofia meeting and the exceptional hospitality accorded to us, the picture of what has been achieved in Sofia will be complete.

My meeting with Comrade Todor Zhivkov and with the Bulgarian leadership has been extremely useful for me. On instructions from Mikhail S. Gorbachev I briefed them on Soviet-American talks and the progress of the

restructuring drive in my country. Comrade Zhivkov shared with me his valuable ideas and thoughts on the Bulgarian experience of building socialism.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and wish happiness, peace and further triumphs to all Bulgarian people—our brothers.

Loginov Briefs Press

LD301654 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia March 30 TASS—At a press conference on the results of the session of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states here (the session ended today), Vadim Loginov, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, touched upon the Afghan issue.

"The Soviet Union is not a direct participant in the talks being held in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan under the aegis of Diego Cordovez, U.N. undersecretary-general, but the USSR is a highly interested party", he said. "We are sitisfied with the resumption of the talks on Tuesday. Virtually the entire package of agreements has been coordinated there, including, as was stated at the previous round of the talks, the final difficult question connected with a period and time-table of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan".

"Honestly speaking, we do not quite understand what considerations the Pakistani side is guided by when it slows down headway towards the moment of signature", Vadim Loginov pointed out. "Most absurd obstacles are being put, such as, for example, the assertion that a coalition government in Kabul should be set up before an agreement is signed. The question arises who should set up such a government. We believe that this is the affair of the Afghans themselves. Way back in January last year President Najibullah suggested that any forces of opposition, including the 'Alliance of Seven' and the Afghans in emigration should join in the process of creating such a government. So, on whom does this depend? It does not depend on Kabul but on other groups which are outside Afghanistan. The question of the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is also being raised. But it did not and does not have any bearing on the talks".

"Demands are also being tabled for 'symmetrical' cuts in aid to Kabul on the part of the Soviet Union, and to the so-called mujahidin on the part of the United States. But this is also a riduculous question because treaty-based relationships have been in existence between our country and Afghanistan since 1921".

"As far as the aid to the mujahidin is concerned, it is supplied through Pakistan. The U.S. side is not a participant in the Geneva package of agreements. This question is part of its bilateral relations with Pakistan through which the aid is supplied".

"Our prime concern is to secure that the agreements, which are practically prepared for signing, are signed so that thereby conditions for a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan would be created", the Soviet spokesman emphasized.

"Decisions concerning the troops' withdrawal and coordinated with the government in Kabul are well-known. So, a settlement of the Afghanistan issue on the basis of the Geneva package of agreements depends exclusively on the goodwill of the Pakistani side".

Gerasimov Foreign Ministry Press Briefing

Shevardnadze Message to Japan

LD311455 Moscow TASS in English 1417 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—The USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a message of greetings to the readers of the Soviet magazine "THE SOVIET UNION TODAY" that is published in Japan in the Japanese language. The occasion was the magazine's 30th anniversary. Journalists learned this at a press briefing today held by the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov.

The message says that by their content and nature Soviet-Japanese bilateral relations should be adequate to the geographical proximity of the two countries, their role and prestige in international affairs, their potential and possibilities.

Eduard Shevardnadze expressed confidence that the new political thinking should encompass not only the entire spectrum of world problems but also the situation in all regions of the world, including the Asia-Pacific one, where Japan's constructive contribution to promoting broad cooperation in the interests of peace and security is particularly important.

Israel, S. Africa Criticized

LD311517 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—The imposing by Israel of full blockade on the occupied lands in the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza sector can be described only as a most serious violation of the basic rights and freedoms of man. This was stated at a briefing here today by Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Along with forbidding the access to those areas for foreign journalists and in this way shielding themselves from publicity, the Israeli authorities are going on with repressions against the civilian Palestinian population. The Soviet Union emphatically denounces those new illegal actions of Tel Aviv and demands their immediate termination.

"We believe that the U.N. Security Council which bears the main responsibility for the maintenance of universal peace and security should take resolute measures for putting an end to the Israeli aggression. Unfortunately those measures could be taken on condition of the unity of permanent members of the Security Council. This unity is non-existent. The U.S. supports Israel no matter what steps it takes."

Touching upon reports in the foreign press to the effect that Saudi Arabia purchased from the People's Republic of China ground-to-ground medium-range missiles with a range of action under 3,500 km which is regarded by a number of countries of that region as a threat to their security, Gerasimov said: "The arms race in which practically all the countries of the Near and Middle East have been drawn is a direct consequence of the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iranian-Iraqi conflict remain unsettled. This confirms once again the need for the activization of international efforts aimed at the elimination of tension in that region."

Answering a question about the situation in the south of Africa, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that several days before a group of saboteurs from South African Army units had penetrated Gaborone, capital of Botswana, had blasted with fire an apartment house and pelted it with grenades. Four civilians had been killed and their bodies had been burned in an attempt to conceal the traces of the crime.

"The action of the racists against the independent Republic of Botswana again reminded the world of the need for taking the measure which has been long overdue—for imposing comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on the apartheid state. The Soviet Union is indignant over the new act of subversion staged by the terrorists. The Soviet people are unshakeable in their demand that the Pretoria regime should immediately stop its policy of aggression, terror and violence against independent neighbouring countries," Gerasimov said.

INF Treaty, SDI Discussed

LD311523 Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—The news that the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee supported on March 30 by 17 votes against two the ratification of the INF Treaty has been welcomed in the Soviet Union, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing here today.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the ministry's Information Directorate, quoted Sen. Alan Cranston as saying that the full Senate would also approve the treaty since its opponents could count on 8-9 votes maximum.

As to the USSR Supreme Soviet, the spokesman observed, a thorough and exhaustive discussion of the treaty was continuing.

He recalled that the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet started their deliberations on the treaty at their joint session on February 8.

A preparatory commission was then set up to consider the entire package of problems connected with the treaty and its ratification. It held four sessions at which the commission members heard reports by officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry, scientists, experts and heads of public organisations and parliamentary representatives from the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia.

The course of the discussion and letters from the public suggest that the overwhelming majority of the country's population approve the treaty and favour its ratification.

At the same time, there are manifestations of certain concern as to what degree one or another provision of the treaty meets the interests of the Soviet Union's security.

"On the results of the work of the preparatory commission, the commissions will formulate their conclusion and present it to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet," the spokesman said.

Replying to a question related to a secret document of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff which recommended limiting allocations for the Strategic Defence initiative programme and channelling them to the deployment of an ABM system to protect only vital military facilities, Gerasimov said:

"Soviet scientists have stated since the very beginning that it is technologically impossible to create a really impenetrable shield above all U.S. territory.

"All attempts to achieve that would be offset by extra means of attack that would cost much less.

"No shield can be invented against the nuclear sword. The only defence against nuclear attack is nuclear disarmament."

At present, the spokesman said, "we are observing a certain departure in the United States from the President's idea of building an anti-ballistic missile defence of the entire U.S. territory towards partial defence of military targets alone."

"Still, it is better to engage in nuclear disarmament than create ABM systems," he added.

Gerasimov Cited on Draft Agreement for Summit
PM311051 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by A. Kuvshinnikov: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center; On Talks and Conflicts"]

[Excerpt] In the past week a divergence has clearly appeared in assessments of the prospects of completing work on the treaty for a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms by the time of the Moscow summit. The statements by Soviet officials are marked by cautious optimism. U.S. representatives prefer restrained, pessimistic tones. What has given rise to this discrepancy?

In the opinion of G. Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, a possible reason lies in the difference in the level of enthusiasm. We believe that if we try, it is possible to prepare draft documents for signing during the Moscow summit meeting. The Americans also believe this, but at the same time they are making reservations: We may not have the time. The following idea is also being put forward, for instance: Better no agreement than a bad one. This is a false contrast—indeed, why have a bad agreement, let's talk about a good agreement.

In such situations optimism is a good thing, G. Gerasimov stressed. It puts into operation the mechanism of the self-fulfilling prophesy; that is, if you believe in something and act accordingly you can implement it. [passage omitted]

Gerasimov Comments on Current Armenian Unrest
PM011129 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No. 14, 2-8 Apr 88 (Signed to Press 31 Mar 88) p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] G. Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, answered questions by Soviet and foreign journalists on events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center.

The problems which have developed as a result of events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh must be solved on the basis of realism and without emotion, G. Gerasimov noted. They cannot be solved by demonstrations; nor can they be solved by automatically incorporating Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia. Nothing is that simple.

Under Article 78 of the USSR Constitution, territorial changes are possible subject to agreement by the republic they affect and confirmation by the USSR Supreme Soviet, the speaker recalled. This is a constitutional process; no commission can simply hold a session and solve this question.

As regards demonstrations in Yerevan, the city authorities have made the following decision: Demonstrations can be held subject to permission, an application for which must be filed 10 days in advance.

[Unidentified journalist] How strong are the attempts being made from abroad to influence events in Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Gerasimov] There is no doubt that the events in question have "local" roots, lying in mistakes in the implementation of nationality policy over many years, G. Gerasimov pointed out. But these difficulties can very easily be exploited by our ill-wishers, by "radio voices" which could don the robes of protectors of one people's rights while "forgetting" other people and thus fanning national dissensions.

[Unidentified journalist] How strong has the effect of the events been on the economy of the Transcaucasus?

[Gerasimov] I have no accurate data at present, G. Gerasimov replied, but in general terms it can be said that any disruptions of the working rhythm mean losses both for the enterprises where this rhythm is disrupted and for their partner enterprises. One newspaper has reported, for example, that there is a shortage of automobile windshields in Yerevan because these should have been but were not brought in from Sumgait. These are the economic costs of what is happening.

[Unidentified journalist] Hasn't confidence in the Soviet press been undermined as a result of the insufficiently full coverage of events in the Transcaucasus?

[Gerasimov] Many people were initially dissatisfied with the amount of information arriving from the Transcaucasus, G. Gerasimov said. The situation which developed was attributed to newspaper publishers' fear of "throwing fat on the fire" and fanning passions still further. This is easily understood: Just one incorrectly written article could have provoked additional disturbances and eruptions [vzryvi]. Information is now coming in in sufficient quantities.

WFTU Session in Addis Ababa Ends 30 Mar

Arms, Regional Issues Discussed

LD301625 Moscow TASS in English 1454 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Addis Ababa March 30 TASS—TASS correspondents Gennadiy Gabrielyan and Yegor Kuznetsov report:

The 39th session of the Bureau of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is held in the Ethiopian capital under the signboard of rallying of the working people against nuclear menace, for peace and social progress.

"The signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range missiles gave a fresh impetus to the development of international relations, promoted the consolidation of peace forces", General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour of France Henri Krasucki said at the session. "This made an impact on the international working class movement, too. Thus after a prolonged period of split, there is the growing closeness now between the WFTU and the International Federation of Free Trade Unions".

"The strengthening of cooperation between the working people of all the continents is the indispensable condition of success of the struggle for peace and democracy, against racism and apartheid," Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), Abdulaye Leluma Diallo said at the session. "The holding of a forum of the WFTU on Ethiopian soil showed once again the solidarity of workers of the world with African peoples".

"The WFTU should give an effective support to the struggle of the working people of the southern Africa against apartheid", said Chairman of All-Ethiopia Trade Union, Tadese Tamirat. He said that the Pretoria regime is intensifying reprisals against the African majority staging aggressive sallies against "Frontline" states. "Our brothers and sisters need international solidarity as never before", he said.

Secretary of the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, Gennadiy Yanayev spoke about the need to work out a common trade union concept on problems of establishing a new economic order, developing trade and cooperation. "This could become a substantial contribution toward convening an international forum on matters of economic security," he said.

"Millions of working people should be drawn into the struggle for disarmament by setting concrete aims to them", said Secretary of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions Kosta Andreyev. "For instance, the idea of turning the Balkan Peninsula into a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons is spreading ever wider. And there is no need for special effort to advertise this idea as it is concrete and easy to understand", he said.

Chairman of the Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services, Bonifacio Tupas made a call to the participants of the session to give assistance to peace supporters in Pacific countries. "We need international solidarity to oppose the pressure of the U.S. Administration which intends to perpetuate its military bases on Philippine land. The agreement on the bases expires in 1991. The Philippines should become a zone free from weapons of mass destruction", he said.

The Panamanian working people have been faced with a brazen interference by the Reagan administration which seeks to form in Panama a government obedient to Washington, General Secretary of the National Trade Union Centre of the Panamanian Working People Jose Gil said at the session. "Building up the military might close to our frontiers, the USA is striving to intimidate the Panamanian people. Despite the obligations assumed, the U.S. tries to preserve the military presence in the Panama Canal zone even after the year 2000."

'Final Communique' Issued

LD303155 Moscow TASS in English 2121 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Addis Ababa March 30 TASS—"The era of nuclear disarmament, development and trade unions" was the key topic of the 39th World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) bureau session that wound up in the

Ethiopan capital today. A final communique of the session emphasizes that the signing of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles provides fresh opportunities to invigorate the world trade union movement's involvement in tackling the issues of peace and disarmament.

The WFTU bureau called upon the trade unions to participate more enrgetically in moving forward the process of nuclear disarmament. At the WFTU bureau session it was stressed that the efforts to explore ways to settle regional conflicts are of vital importance to the global work for peace, security and disarmament. In view of this, the bureau confirmed its support for setting up zones of trust, cooperation and goodneighbourliness, nuclear-free zones, peace zones in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and also for moves to strengthen security in the Mediterranean Sea.

Summing up the results of the debate on the issue of enhancing international solidarity with the working people of Africa, which was the second item on the agenda, the WFTU bureau urged the world community to take urgent measures to give aid to Africa in socio-economic development. The session stated that the continent's resources continue to be mercilessly exploited by transnational corporations and banks in the process of the organized neo-colonial plunder.

The situation in Africa also patently demonstrates a total setback of the anti-popular economic policy imposed by the International Monetary fund and the World Bank. The WFTU bureau expressed unconditional support for the struggle by the people in the south of Africa to abolish racism and apartheid, stated full solidarity with Africa's working people and trade unions and the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity.

By the decision of Workers' Party of Ethiopia Central Committee, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, was awarded the WFTU gold medal to honour his contribution to the cause of the struggle for the rights and interests of the working people, and end to imperialist and neo-colonial oppression, peace and security for all nations.

Arms Reduction in Asia-Pacific Region Advocated

OW280005 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the progress in the preparations for the fourth Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, discussions on offensive strategic weapons have become increasingly active. People the world over believe that the main purpose of the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting in Moscow is to sign an accord on reducing offensive strategic weapons by 50 percent.

The reduction of 50 percent of strategic weapons—and then their total destruction—is the key to the elimination of the nuclear threat in the world.

This process is also of decisive significance to safeguarding peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. This is because Asia bears the brunt of the threat posed by strategic nuclear weapons. According to statistics provided by military experts, over 80 percent of U.S. nuclear warheads are installed on ICBMs carried by U.S. submarines and heavy bombers. This is several times more than the corresponding strategic strength of the USSR. Apparently such a disproportion also exists in the Asia-Pacific region. Most of the 3,000 nuclear warheads the United States has deployed in the Asia-Pacific region are installed on ICBMs carried by submarines and heavy bombers. The United States has deployed in the Asia-Pacific region over 40 multipurpose nuclear-powered submarines equipped with over 1,200 nuclear weapons carriers, including cruise missiles. The United States has deployed in this region eight modern nuclear submarines. Each of these is equipped with 24 [words indistinct] ICBMs.

The Pentagon has spared no efforts to improve the U.S. Navy, including equipping it with the latest nuclear missiles. The United States has also been building more nuclear submarines equipped with the type of ICBMs mentioned above.

These examples show that the U.S. military strategy has apparently shifted to strengthening the role played by sea-based nuclear weapons. This is particularly dangerous to the Asia-Pacific region because, according to authoritative experts, the Navy's nuclear potential, especially the automaticity of missile-equipped submarines, is greater than that of the ground or Air Force, while its manuverability and communications reliability are lower. Thus, during crucial or unexpected moments, it is certainly possible that there could be unexpected, or even disastrous, consequences. [Word indistinct] reducing 50 percent of offensive strategic weapons, including those on submarines and the sea-based cruise missiles, is the right measure for stopping the sea-based nuclear threats in Asia.

Opponents of nuclear disarmament have carried out the most strenuous resistance in this area. Some U.S. politicians and experts have declared that the United States and its allies have great strategic superiority over the USSR in the Asia-Pacific region, and so it is inadvisable to negotiate nuclear disarmament and other military and political issues so as to maintain this regional superiority in this region.

The Soviet attitude, however, is totally different. While agreeing to destroy the intermediate- and short-range missiles in Europe, the USSR has also taken the initiative of committing itself to destroying such missiles in its Asian region. Thus, the USSR has demonstrated with facts that it is striving to alleviate nuclear confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The USSR maintains that if an agreement on reducing offensive strategic weapons can be signed, efforts can be fully devoted to studying a reduction of sea-based and land-based combat readiness in the Asia-Pacific region, and to studying other possible measures for easing the military confrontation in this region. Suggestions in this respect were put forward by Gorbachev in the speech he made in Vladivostok on 28 July 1986. The Soviet suggestions are still valid.

United States & Canada

New Aid Package for Nicaraguan Contras Viewed

LD010914 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—On Thursday the U.S. Senate approved by 88 votes against seven a bill on resumption of aid to the Nicaraguan contras. On Wednesday it was approved by 345 votes against 70 by the House of Representatives. The White House clearly intimated that President Reagan would immediately sign the bill, though it does not provide for military aid to contras, as the administration had sought.

The document provides for allocating contras the so-called humanitarian aid to the sum of 16.2 million dollars for the next six months to purchase foodstuffs, clothing, medicines and for cash payments to family members. Another 1.5 million will be given for acquiring communications equipment. All in all, Congress allocates them 17.7 million dollars.

To make the bill more acceptable for those who are against any aid to the anti-government forces of Nicaragua, including "humanitarian" assistance, its sponsors provided for appropriating the same sum (17.7 million dollars) for a programme of medical aid to Nicaraguan children victims of the war in the country.

Ten million dollars is appropriated for a special commission on monitoring the observance of peace agreements in Nicaragua and another 2.5 million—to foot administrative expenses pertaining to the aid granted.

However, far from all legislators are sure that the funds appropriated to contras will promote the peace process. Congressman Richard Durbin warned that the decision by Congress would have an adverse effect. It would lead to the fact that the contras would shy the talks. He and other liberal legislators noted in this context that the progress at the talks between contras and the Nicaraguan Government had started developing only at the time when Congress stopped on February 29 any aid to anti-government forces. That was primarily the reason why 70 representatives and seven senators voted against the "aid package" drafted during talks between the Democratic and Republican leaders of the House of Representatives.

Aid Called 'Camouflage'

LD311448 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—TASS political news analyst Nikolay Chigir writes:

The House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress decided to appropriate many millions of dollars for Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary units. It should be noted that this action has been taken precisely at a time when talks between the Government of Nicaragua and leaders of the contras on ceasefire and the implementation of the Guatemalan agreements reached among the presidents of five Central American countries on achieving a durable and stable peace in the region have been started and proceed actively. Moreover, a preliminary agreement on the halting as of April 1 of offensive military operations over the entire Nicaraguan territory for 60 days has already been signed. Real prospects thus opened for the ending of a bloody war against Nicaragua which has been waged by Washington with the assistance of contras for seven years now.

In these conditions, the decision of the House of Representatives of the Congress clearly prompted by the Washington administration can only be assessed as an outright provocation, as a crude attempt to frustrate the process of peaceful political settelment in Nicaragua that has already been started.

Suffice it to recall numerous statements of representatives of the U.S. Administration, including the President, that the United States will never withdraw support from the "freedom fighters", which is how they in Washington describe the mercenary army of contras formed by the CIA to fight the Sandinist government. By all indications, the prospect of peace in Nicaragua and refusal of power methods with regard to that independent country do not suit the White House. The new U.S. aid to Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries is presented in Washington as "humanitarian". But in the past, too, the United States resorted to various methods to camouflage military backing for units of contras. Washington used various loopholes in order to continue the undeclared war against Nicaragua with the use of contras. This was clearly confirmed by the scandalous Iran-contra affair.

The Washington administration expects that it will still be able to frustrate the process of reconciliation in Nicaragua and will continue using contras as an instrument of its aggressive policy. THE WASHINGTON POST reports that this is shown, specifically, by the arrangement with democratic congressmen not to put obstacles to the voting on further military aid to the contras if the efforts to establish peace in Nicaragua fail. But it is apparent that Washington is interested in precisely this kind of a failure.

The settlement of regional conflict which can spread to other areas any moment is one of vital world problems. An important step to such a settlement has been taken in Nicaragua and any attempt to frustrate it means a challenge not only to countries of Central America and entire Latin America but also to the world community as a whole.

White House Welcomes Committee INF Decision

LD312130 Moscow TASS in English 2123 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 31 TASS—The White House today welcomed the decision by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to recommend to the full Senate

approving the Soviet-U.S. treaty on eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. Marlin Fitzwater, an official spokesman for the White House, described this decision as a very good action and expressed the hope that the Senate would discuss and give its consent to the ratification of the treaty as soon as possible.

Fitzwater said the administration would wish this treaty to be ratified prior to the Moscow summit meeting and considered that this was possible.

Gen Abrahamson Confirms Plans To Implement SDI
LD010919 Moscow TASS in English 0904 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—TASS correspondent A. Fedyashin reports:

The goals and tasks of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative were and remain the same as President Reagan outlined them at the very outset on March 23, 1983, Lieutenant General James Abrahamson, director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, said on Thursday at the subcommittee on defence of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He refuted reports which appeared in the American press in the recent past that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had cut requirements to the SDI, deciding to put up with 30-percent efficiency of the system. The U.S. press perceived this news as an admission of unfeasibility of the Reagan administration's plans to create an "impervious space shield".

Abrahamson alleged that the SDI was called upon to prevent a war. However, at the same time he confirmed in fact that the main task of creating an ABM system with space-based elements was to achieve a strategic superiority over the USSR. The U.S. general put it bluntly that the SDI should be used together with U.S. offensive forces to ensure the USA the strongest and the best possible deterrent system.

The chief of the Star Wars programme fired a broadside at Congress which had refused to satisfy fully the Pentagon's request for SDI appropriations for the coming fiscal year, though they will rise as against the current fiscal year. Congress agreed to allocate some 3.7 billion dollars for the SDI programme in the fiscal year 1989 instead of 4.5 billion requested by the Pentagon. The general said that such a cut would delay the programme's implementation. According to Abrahamson, if a decision on deploying the first SDI echelon is taken in 1993, its first elements will be put into [illegible] only in 1996-1997, and the system will be made functional militarily in 1999-2000.

Ptashnikov Notes Change in SDI Policy
LD282025 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST has reported that the Pentagon is introducing changes in the concept of the implementation of the Strategic Defense Initiative program; in other words, a move toward a more limited or truncated version of the program. Here is a Mayak commentary. At the microphone is its author, Andrey Ptashnikov.

The report published in THE WASHINGTON POST may perfectly justifiably be called unexpected. For the blind adherence of the White House and the Pentagon to the Star Wars program is well known, and it was once again clearly demonstrated just a few days ago when the U.S. Administration marked the fifth anniversary of the official announcement of the beginning of the implementation of this program. Speaking in Washington at that time, President Reagan extolled in every possible way the successes already achieved by the Pentagon and again insisted that the implementation of SDI should continue at full speed.

And suddenly we have this turn of events. I believe it is still too early to draw any categorical conclusions about this. We have already witnessed more than once the deliberate leakage of secret information to somehow defuse the situation and distract attention, and then later it cannot be substantiated.

But let us suppose that this is not the case now. Then we can presuppose that in the Pentagon they have finally come to the conclusion about the impossibility of implementing the SDI program in its originally conceived form. And it is on precisely this version that THE WASHINGTON POST is insisting. Quoting high-ranking officials, it writes about an opinion which has become widespread among circles in the administration that the U.S. President's dream is probably impracticable. This is being connected with technical and financial problems which are difficult to solve. But these problems arose virtually as soon as the Star Wars plan came out. Many well-known scientists and specialists constantly and perfectly justifiably proved the futility of all the attempts to implement them. Nevertheless, nearly $15 billion has been spent on the implementation of SDI over 5 years.

So, what changes, then, does the Pentagon intend to make in it? THE WASHINGTON POST reports that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had prepared a special secret document for the White House. It recommends renouncing the creation of a huge cosmic shield and limiting itself to developing an anti-aircraft defense system to protect only military-strategic targets. In other words, it is not a matter of a rejection of SDI, but simply making it more limited, or as THE WASHINGTON POST writes, of "less ambitious purposes."

It is still not clear whether the President and his administration support these recommendations. But I would like to stress once again that it is still too early to speak about a fundamental review of attitudes to the Star Wars program. But one should not forget that SDI enjoys powerful support in the U.S. military-industrial complex, which is doing everything possible to make its implementation irreversible.

And so, it is more a case of life itself forcing the Pentagon to make changes in its plans. Clearly, having found itself faced with insoluble technical difficulties and excessive financial expenditure, which we have already mentioned, and—no less important—a mass international movement of protest against the militarization of outer space, the Pentagon has decided to salvage at least a part of the Star Wars program.

Program Finding Fewer Adherents

LD311240 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services has voted to reduce government spending on implementing SDI.

Here is the latest news comment by Andrey Ptashnikov:

[Ptashnikov] It is a question of the allocations which the White House would like assigned for the implementation of the Star Wars program in the next fiscal year. Originally the administration had planned to spend $6.2 billion on it. However, it later reduced its request to $4.5 billion. It was precisely this sum which was discussed by the committee. During the debates, they concluded that that was also excessively high, and voted to reduce it to $3.7 billion.

This decision is not final, since the matter will also be discussed in the House of Representatives itself and then in the Senate. Nevertheless, it is indicative. ASSOCIATED PRESS, which reported the results of the vote, notes that the representatives had in this way put in doubt the reliability and promise of this program, on which the White House is stubbornly insisting.

Incidentally, its arguments in favor of SDI are today finding fewer and fewer adherents not only on Capitol Hill, but even in the Pentagon. I remind you that a few days ago its intention became known to refrain from the original plans to create a huge space shield, and to limit itself to the deployment [razvertyvanye] of an antimissile defense system to defend only military-strategic installations. This was caused by financial and technical problems which were proving difficult to solve.

This news probably also influenced the decision by the representatives to reduce the funds for implementing SDI. Do all these facts provide grounds for saying that its fate in this way is virtually predetermined? I think not. First, the White House is unreasonably continuing zealously to defend its favorite offspring. Second, it must not be forgotten that it remains the same also for the all-powerful U.S. military-industrial complex. It will hardly permit the enormous profits which it has already brought and should continue to be brought to it by the implementation of the Star Wars program to be suddenly cut off.

Still, the results of the vote by the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives are the latest evidence of the fact that belief in the possibility and advisability of implementing SDI, and support for it as well, are clearly dwindling in the United States.

Scientists' Report on SDI Anniversary

LD252158 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Washington March 25 TASS—Support by the U.S. military industrial complex for the Reagan administration's "Strategic Defense Initiative" has turned into a powerful factor contributing towards the development of an ABM system with space-based elements and can make this process irreversible. This is pointed out in the report "SDI Contracts After Five Years" issued here by the Federation of American Scientists. The research paper by the organization composed of 5,000 scientists is timed to the fifth anniversary on March 23 since the proclamation of the "star wars" program by President Ronald Reagan.

The acute political debate around SDI is continuing. The authors of the report point out that the arms manufacturing corporations are voicing increasing support for it since they began to feel that the program promises them enormous and guaranteed profits. From 1983 to 1988, according to the estimates of experts of the Federation of American Scientists, the Reagan administration has set aside a total of 15 billion dollars for research, development and tests under the "Star Wars" program. Already now many U.S. military corporations link the future precisely with the SDI program. All this threatens to turn the "Star Wars" program into the main factor of the arms race, the report says.

A statement on the fifth anniversary of SDI has also been made by President Reagan. He reiterated the claims, according to which that program is aimed to "find a way to keep the peace through defensive systems which threaten no one." The U.S. President lauded to the skies the successes made by the USA in developing strike space weapons to provide a justification to Congress for the appropriations requested with these aims. "Every year Congress has cut back the SDI budget. We are now 1-2 years behind schedule."

Robert Bowman, president of the American Institute for Space and Security Studies, urged the MPs from the British ruling Conservative Party to try and convince Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to give up support for

SDI. As the British newspaper TIMES said, addressing the British MPs on Thursday, he said that President Reagan's idea to create a "space shield" which will allegedly protect America from the Soviet missiles is just a smokescreen for the development of offensive weapons.

Rolf Linkohr, deputy of the European Parliament from the Social Democratic Party of Germany, has declared against the implementation of the U.S. "Star Wars" program. The experience of the five years since the proclamation of the SDI program, he said in an interview with the West German press bulletin "PARLAMENTARISCH-POLITISCHER PRESSEDIENST", shows that its implementation is fraught with a fatal risk. This program is an obstacle to taking disarmament measures since it is aimed at the militarisation of outer space. It absorbs enormous funds which could be otherwise used with peaceful aims.

Reagan Holds Meeting on Panama Situation

LD010708 Moscow TASS in English 0704 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—President Ronald Reagan held a meeting in the White House Thursday with his leading foreign policy advisers to discuss the situation in Panama.

After the meeting, presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that the meeting of the National Security Planning Group had passed no decisions.

A day before the meeting, a White House official had said the administration continued to actively consider additional sanctions against Panama.

New Measures Announced

LD010742 Moscow TASS in English 0717 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—On Thursday the White House announced new economic measures for stepping up pressure on General Noriega, the military leader of Panama, to force him to resign as commander-in-chief of the National Defence Forces of that Central American country. A written statement made yesterday on behalf of Marlin Fitzwater, assistant to the President for press relations, reports a decision by the administration to deposit in a special account of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York all payments due the Government of Panama. The decision provides also for other moves called upon to ensure "an incentive and opportunity not to provide financial support" to the present Panamanian Government. The statement points out that "should these measures prove insufficient, we will review additional legal steps that may be necessary to deny transfer of funds to the Noriega regime".

The White House made the statement on new moves spearheaded at exacerbating the economic and financial crisis in Panama several hours after mectings of the National Security Planning Group and of the cabinet, chaired by President Reagan.

The same day the U.S. Senate adopted by 92 votes against one a non-mandatory resolution demanding that President Reagan block any credits or monetary funds, under the U.S. jurisdiction, to the Panamanian Government.

Troop Withdrawal From Honduras Noted

LD282229 Moscow TASS in English 2141 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] New York March 29 TASS—The United States started withdrawing from Honduras officers and men from the 82nd Airborne Division, the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported.

11 days ago the division was urgently airlifted to the Palmerola Airbase in Honduras, as part of the U.S. campaign of pressure and blackmail vis-a-vis Nicaragua. The Washington administration openly declared that American commandos were ready for direct military actions against Nicaragua.

On Monday, the first group of 800 servicemen left by air for their base in the United States. The rest 2,400 men from the division, according to a statement of the representatives of the American Embassy in Honduras, are to leave Palmerola within two or three days.

Secretary Shultz Begins Mideast Trip

LD010719 Moscow TASS in English 0708 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin:

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left for another Middle East trip on Thursday in a bid to breathe life into the so-called new American plan for a "settlement" in the region.

After a short stopover in Rome he will arrive in Israel on Sunday and then will visit Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The new U.S. initiative, known as the Shultz Plan, provides for the introduction of a very limited form of autonomy for Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories and the convocation of an international Middle East conference which would have no authority to take decisions and which would be held without the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In other words, the conference is to serve as a cover for separate negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, which would bar the legitimate Palestinain representatives from the discussion of the destiny of their people and which in fact would exclude the issue of an independent Palestinian state.

The plan has not only been rejected by the PLO and cooly met in the Arab world, but also met with bitter opposition from Israel's right-wing forces led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud bloc.

Secretary Carlucci Leaves for N. Africa, Asia

LD010923 Moscow TASS in English 0722 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports: The U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci set out Thursday on a nine-day tour of a number of countries of North Africa and Asia. He is scheduled to visit Morocco, India, Pakistan and Tunisia. A Pentagon spokesman said the chief purpose of Carlucci's mission is to strengthen U.S. ties with those countries and to hold talks with America's "friends" in the region.

In Washington they attach special importance to the Pentagon chief's upcoming talks in Pakistan whose territory the U.S. uses for supplying with weapons the opposition forces who wish to topple the Government of Afghanistan.

UN Assembly Discusses PLO New York Office

LD241739 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] New York March 24 TASS—TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov reports:

The 42nd U.N. General Assembly which resumed its deliberations twice this month to examine the question of USA's decision to close the mission of the permanent observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the U.N., ended its work here on Wednesday. The overwhelming majority of the international community sharply denounced Washington's provocative intrigue: Delegates from 148 countries voted for a resolution aimed at countering discriminatory and illegal actions by the USA, running counter to its obligations to the United Nations.

Only representatives of the USA and Israel were against the resolution.

Addressing the session, Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, PLO permanent representative to the U.N., said that actions by the United States showed that the USA did not respect its agreements with the international community. The United Nations should make the USA fulfil its contractual obligations in the face of such a challenge. This problem, Al-Tarazi said, is a problem of relations between the U.N. and the host country, and the International Court of Law is the only forum where it can be settled.

Peter Florin, president of the 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly, said that the examination of this problem would be continued in April after appropriate consultations.

Official Comments on Soviet-U.S. Summits

AU262023 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 22 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by Moscow correspondent Ferenc Szaniszlo: "Pyadyshev's Statements to MAGYAR HIRLAP—Can There Be Two Summit Meetings This Year?"]

[Text] There is very little time left for working out an agreement on a 50 percent reduction of strategic nuclear arms in Geneva prior to President Reagan's visit to Moscow, and therefore, the concern that this new, large-scale Soviet-U.S. agreement will not be signed at the Moscow summit is justified—Boris Pyadyshev, member of the Collegium of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and chief editor of MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN, told our Moscow correspondent at a press conference on 21 March.

He stressed, however, that he is confident that both sides will display political goodwill, because then, it will be possible to reach an agreement in the short time remaining. According to Pyadyshev, two issues must still be clarified. One of them is the issue of verification which is more complex than in the case of the INF treaty signed in December 1987, since, this time, only one-half of a category of weapons is to be eliminated, not the entire category as in the case of the INF.

The second issue is that of the cruise missiles. According to U.S. opinions, it is extremely difficult to carry out the verification of such weapons that can be found on board submarines.

Pyadyshev pointed out that the Soviet leadership does not make the Moscow summit conditional on the signing of such an agreement. "Whether the agreement is ready or not, we will gladly welcome President Reagan in Moscow. As for its political significance, however, this visit must be equal to the Washington summit, and an agreement on the reduction of strategic arms would best guarantee such a balance."

If, however, a disarmament agreement is not signed in Moscow, work will continue in Geneva, and as soon as the agreement is ready, the two leaders will sign it. Pyadyshev is convinced that the agreement will be ready this year, unless the U.S. election campaign hinders it in

the form of maneuvering and compromises. Unfortunately, there have been cases in the past when improving Soviet-U.S. relations have fallen victim to the election campaign.

According to Pyadyshev's personal opinion, although there was no talk in Washington about a possible third summit, one cannot exclude such a possibility, because disarmament agreements are signed by the leading politicians. "As to the location of another summit we have only speculations: possibly, in a third country."

U.S. Said 'Urgently' Supplying Afghan Rebels

LD281356 Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] London March 28 TASS—The U.S. Administration is urgently supplying arms worth a total of 300 million U.S. dollars to Afghan anti-government groups. This move is a new serious threat to the process of political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan at the Geneva talks, says the article published in today's issue of the newspaper GUARDIAN.

The newspaper quotes well-informed diplomatic circles in Washington as saying that the "rebels" are being urgently supplied with advanced weapons including 120-mm heavy mortars and modern field engineering equipment.

The GUARDIAN reports that since the middle of 1986 until now the USA has supplied Afghan anti-government units with more than a thousand Stinger rockets.

Double Standards Charged on Human Rights Policy

LD011259 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 1 Apr 88

["US Applies Double Standards in Human Rights Area"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—By TASS news analyst Maxim Knyazkov:

Abdin Jabar, national chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, was taught a lesson recently on both the U.S. Middle Eastern policy and American views on human rights.

It all started when the head of this organisation decided to protest against a statement made a day earlier by Richard Schifter, assistant secretary for human rights and humanitarian affairs, at one of the subcommittees of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Trying to justify the actions of Israeli authorities, who use violence to suppress the Palestine uprising on occupied Arab lands, Schifter cynically said that Israel had not only the right but also obligation to keep and restore order on occupied territories and could use as much force as was required to attain that goal. He went even further by asserting that the Israeli Defense Forces were under orders which conformed with the generally recognised international norms.

According to Schifter, the cold-blood murder of more than 120 Palestinians during Israeli operations to suppress protests, the torture of Arabs in special concentration camps and even the outrageous act by Israeli soldiers who attempted to bury alive four Palestine youths on the West Bank of Jordan—all these conform to international norms.

In other words, the leader of the mass organisation, active in defending Arab rights, had ample reason to be outraged.

Expressing his indignation, however, he made one serious mistake. It seems that he sincerely believed the administration's assurances that it was a staunch advocate of human rights and decided that the assistant secretary of state had exceeded his powers and made a statement at the Congress which was authorised by no one. Schifter's pronouncements ran counter to the policy which had been already elaborated, Abdin Jabar commented in amazement and demanded the immediate resignation of the representative of the State Department.

But here he was told in no uncertain terms where reality and where illusion is. Speaking at a briefing, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said bluntly that Schifter said what the state secretary and he or any other representative of American authorities used to say. Ensuring order is the obligation of the Israeli authorities.

On the same day israelis used weapons to break up demonstrations on occupied territories killing another four men and wounding more than 30 people. The obligation, as the U.S. Department of State sees it, has been fulfilled...

U.S. Polls on Party Election Preferences

LD300921 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Sukhoy article: "Reflected in the Polls"]

[Text] New York, 26 Mar—While the primaries are being held in some U.S. states within the framework of the current election campaign, institutes which study public opinion are conducting numerous polls in an attempt to establish the correlation of forces between the Republican and Democratic Parties and their candidates.

One Gallup poll showed that 42 percent of the electorate favor the Republican Party. They believe that despite all the recent setbacks in economic policy, this party is still capable of "ensuring prosperity for America." A total of

35 percent of the respondents supported the Democrats, while 23 percent replied that they can see no special difference between the "elephant party" and the "donkey party."

The popular weekly NEWSWEEK has conducted its own poll. The results showed that if the general elections were held right now, Vice President G. Bush would win.

New York's Marist College decided to establish the chances of the Democratic contenders at the New York State primaries to be held 19 April. A total of 459 potential Democrat voters took part in the poll. M. Dukakis was supported by 40 percent of the respondents while 29 percent answered in favor of J. Jackson. In the New York City itself Dukakis currently has a 38-34 percent lead over Jackson.

China

CPC's Zhao Ziyang on Economic, Social Tasks

PM241059 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Course of Stabilization"]

[Text] Beijing, 21 Mar—The need for a further "emancipation of the consciousness" and a stabilization of the economic situation in China was pointed out by Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at the CPC Central Committee plenum being held here. XINHUA reported that he had noted that China is capable in the next few years of maintaining the trend toward a quite rapid pace of economic development. This will be promoted by the deepening of the reform of the economic structure and a more correct utilization of the law of value.

As the CPC leader put it, the Chinese public's attention today is fixed on the excessive increase in prices, primarily prices of agricultural products. In order to resolve this problem particular attention should be devoted to the situation in the countryside in order to improve food supplies to the urban population. The cranking up of prices for consumer goods must be decisively halted, and workers and employees must be paid a corresponding allowance when basic food prices are raised.

The speaker stressed the great importance for the entire country of the strategy of accelerating the economic development of coastal regions. Its implementation presupposes in particular the involvement of an even greater amount of foreign investment with a view to creating new plants and factories and modernizing those already in place. He also touched on the question of the examination by the forthcoming session of the Chinese National People's Congress of a draft law pertaining to enterprises in national ownership and the planned restructuring of the PRC State Council apparatus.

The CPC Central Committee general secretary devoted particular attention to the strengthening of educational work in party and government organs. How to ensure that, while developing the commodity economy, cadre workers retain their conscientious attitude to their duties and a correct work style is the new question to be resolved, he said. Party members must be concerned first and foremost for the people, and only after that think of themselves. As for degenerates within the party, they must be removed without delay.

Zhao Ziyang also pointed to the need for Chinese working people to be familiarized more extensively with party and government activity. During important events the whole people must be informed more expeditiously about the true state of affairs, to explain our political course and to win the support of the people's masses by means of an extensive dialogue. All this is exceptionally important for molding a self-regulating mechanism within society and for maintaining the political atmosphere of stability and cohesion, he stressed.

PRC Economy Beset by 'Excessive Price Rises'

PM310955 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov dispatch: "Key Problem of Reform"]

[Text] Beijing—"If I were a deputy I would primarily draw the attention of the current Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] session to the problem of excessive price rises," was how a Beijing worker replied to an opinion poll.

This worker was by no means alone—95 percent of those polled consider the excessive price rises to be one of the most important problems facing the economy in present-day China, along with the problem of rectifying the party style, improving social ethics, and the need for housing reform.

In his report on the government's work at the NPC session, Li Peng, acting premier of the PRC State Council, in particular noted: "Excessive price growth is sharply evident now in our economic and social life." Believing that a certain growth in the overall level of prices is inevitable during the reform as a stimulus to the development of a commodity economy, he explained the excessive price growth by a number of anomalies: the excessively large money supply; the increased scale of capital construction and consumption fund growth rates; the excess of aggregate demand over aggregate supply; the open and concealed price increases executed by certain enterprises exploiting their monopoly position; and machinations by speculators sowing chaos in the marketplace. The State Council, the main speaker stated, must adopt a range of additional measures to discuss

these trends. These include a more rational correlation of prices for the output of industry, agriculture, and subsidiary farms, subsidies for workers, and a number of other measures.

Discussing the report, the NPC deputies noted the acting premier's serious and candid approach to this acute problem. Tao Dayong, one of China's leading economists, stating that "price growth seriously affects living standards," proposed that the prices administration regularly publish a price index for basic necessities, and that the government subsidize the population in line with this index.

During the discussion of the government's report, deputies from Shandong Province called for the law of cost to be observed in the production process.

Li Peng Views Party Work in State Organs

PM301511 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Speech by Li Peng"]

[Text] Beijing, 24 Mar—Li Peng, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and acting premier of the PRC State Council, has indicated the need to intensify party work in the PRC's central state institutions during a speech which he delivered at a working conference on party work in the country's central institutions.

In view of the reforms being carried out and the separation of the functions of party and state organs, he noted, party work within central institutions must be intensified, not weakened. Party organizations must be in the vanguard of reform and building, must "unite closely with the masses, assert a style of selfless service of the people, and boldly advocate the consistent implementation of the CPC's line."

Many leading posts in central state institutions are occupied by CPC members and the prestige of the party and government among the people's masses, the effectiveness of work and the implementation of party policy, and the success of reform and socialist building depend on their conduct and work style. Leading organs, Li Peng stressed, must comprehensively support the work of party organizations and regard it as an important component of their own activity. Party members who are leading workers of administrative organs must regard themselves as rank-and-file party members, participate in the work of party organizations, consciously submit themselves to their control, and set an example for all.

There are quite a few problems in party building, the speaker continued, and it still does not fully meet the new requirements. There exists at present a superficial view which states that the separation of the functions of party and state has caused ideological-political and party work to lose its great significance. Whereas in actual fact the separation of those functions is being carried out so as to intensify party leadership.

Li Peng Says PRC Supports World Peace

LD311431 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Beijing March 31 TASS—The People's Republic of China supports all that promotes peace throughout the world. This has been stated by Li Peng, member of the Permanent Committee of the Politbureau of the Communist Party of China Central Comittee and acting premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, during his meeting here with Peter Florin, chairman of the 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly.

During the discussion of the coming third session of the U.N. General Assembly on disarmament the Chinese leader pointed out the appearance of "gratifying changes" in the world, a certain lessening of tension in East-West relations and the development of peace forces.

However, Li Peng continued, the menace of war has not been eradicated. Peoples of the world should further exert enormous efforts for establishing lasting and durable peace, he said.

PRC Commander Cited on Improved Air Force

PM301431 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Chinese Air Force Being Improved"]

[Text] Beijing, 29 Mar—The Chinese Air Force is capable of operating over great distances, making surprise strikes, and ensuring reliable air defense. XINHUA reports that Wang Hai, commander of the Chinese Air Force, has stated this.

Today, he pointed out, the Chinese Air Force holds third place in the world in terms of the number of aircraft. Although their technical standard does not yet meet the most modern demands, the types of aircraft produced in the PRC are constantly being improved.

Shakov on Fukuoka Consulate General Incident

OW220802 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Shakov commentary from the "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] In Fukuoka City, Kyushu, Japan, an unidentified person fired on the Chinese Consulate General. According to a local police bureau report, shots were fired from an automobile driving past the Chinese Consulate General late Friday night. Our station commentator Shakov writes:

Firing on the Chinese Consulate General is only one of the many provocations carried out by Japan's ultrarightists. In December 1987, the ultrarightists poured red paint on Nagasaki's Statue of Peace, a gift presented to the city by China in 1985. The Japanese saboteurs' clique is resentful of this kind of symbol. In June of the same year, they vandalized a statue of the late Premier Zhou Enlai in Kyoto. Other monuments which symbolize the friendship with China in Naha and other Japanese cities have also met with the same fate. In unison with these incidents is a vicious anti-China campaign whipped up by Japan's rightist newspapers, which have openly demanded the severance of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and the resumption of contacts with the Taiwan regime. Some figures in Japan's political clique in power have also taken this belligerent stance and are doing their utmost to defend Japan's aggression against China and other Asian nations during World War II. What is noteworthy in this regard is that Tokyo's authorities have made alterations in Japan's history textbooks, which now contain distorted historical accounts in accordance with government instructions. For instance, Japanese occupation of China is described as entering that country, and so on, and so forth. Of course, these alterations also suggest that sentences and phrases on Japanese aggression and occupation of Chinese territories and massacre of Chinese civilians be deleted from the textbooks. Japanese ministers pay annual homage at Tokyo's Shinto Shrine to major war criminals who were sentenced to death for massacring civilians of Asian countries. Also noteworthy is the fact that a Japanese court decided the case of Kyoto's Kokaryo [dormitory] in favor of Taiwan. These acts, or more precisely, provocations, are new anti-China acts encouraged by Japan's militarist clique.

Although the Japanese Government has expressed its goodwill toward the Chinese people, Japan is still stepping up the practice of barefacedly and chauvinistically advocating hatred and revenge against other people, and openly clamoring to reexamine the results of World War II.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Afghan-Pakistan Talks in Geneva

'Unofficial Meetings' Continue

LD010636 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 31 Apr 88

[Text] In Geneva Diego Cordovez, the personal representative of the UN secretary general, is continuing his unofficial meetings with the heads of the Afghan and Pakistani delegations at the talks on Afghanistan. He also had meetings with Soviet special envoy Kozyrev and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Peck.

Cordovez Meets Peck, Kozyrev

LD011238 Moscow TASS in English 1216 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 1 TASS—The U.N. secretary-general's personal representative Diego Cordovez met here today within the framework of the Afghan-Pakistani talks with representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck and Ambassador at Large Nikolay Kozyrev.

The problem of ending military assistance to forces seeking to overthrow the government in Afghanistan, political analysts observe, is crucial to the Geneva talks.

Cordovez told newsmen here that an important moment had come when the parties to the talks had to adopt specific decisions.

'Durand Line' Issue Denounced

LD011326 Moscow TASS in English 1241 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 1 TASS—On behalf of all the craftsmen of the country the Central Council of the Trade Union of the Craftsmen of Afghanistan condemned Pakistan's intention to make the question of the border between the two countries a stumbling block in the way of the signing of the Geneva agreements. The so-called "Durand Line", which the Pakistani side insists should be recognised as the border, was arbitrarily traced by British colonialists at the close of last century and has nothing in common with the notion of an "internationally recognised border". Instead of adopting a responsible approach to the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, Islamabad is trying to hold back to progress of the Geneva talks by invoking newer and newer pretexts which delay the signing of the final documents.

Hundreds of people—the elders and chiefs of different tribes of the Province of Nangarhar—have attended the meeting to protest the intention of Pakistani authorities to present the "Durand Line" as the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Pakistani newspaper "FRONTIER POST" reports that the Afridi tribe at its jirgahs held in the northern parts of Pakistan expressed the unanimous opinion that Pakistan has no right to decide the destinies of the united and free Pushtun tribes. The Pushtun tribes, it was said at the jirgahs, will never recognise the colonial "Durand Line".

AAPSO Conference Ends in Kabul 31 Mar

Keshtmand, Others Speak

PM301527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent B. Okulov dispatch: "To Extinguish the Flames of Regional Conflicts. International Conference in Kabul"]

[Text] Kabul, 29 Mar—It is necessary to create conditions for the successful resolution of regional conflicts by means of a dialogue between the opposing sides and national reconciliation, AAPSO Acting President M. Ghalib declared at the international conference "The Role of the Public in Resolving Regional Conflicts," which opened in the Afghan capital today. Emissaries from almost 40 Asian, African, European, and American countries, representatives of 12 international organizations, and journalists from many countries have come to Kabul at the invitation of the AAPSO and the Afghan Organization for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship.

Greeting the conference on behalf of the country's president, the coordinating council of left-wing democratic parties, and the republic's government, S.'A. Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, emphasized the special significance of international solidarity with the Afghan people's struggle to implement the policy of national reconciliation and normalization of the situation around Afghanistan.

"The results of the first year of the policy of reconciliation in Afghanistan," S.'A. Keshtmand said, "are impressive and very promising. Confident steps have been taken toward creating and strengthening people's power on the basis of the coalition; the economy on the basis of its mixed nature; and the political system on the basis of its multiparty nature. The necessary conditions have taken shape for creating and strengthening coalition rule with the participation of representatives of the opposition forces. Today more than 76 percent of council and executive committee members are nonparty people. Nonparty people have been appointed governors in 13 provinces, including 7 who used to be opponents of the regime. Coalition councils and executive committees have been set up in 14 counties and 9 districts of the country. Repatriates and representatives of the opposition work on them, and their total number exceeds 6,000 people on all coalition organs. All the cities and regions, 148 counties, 68 districts, and more than half the villages in the country are under the control of the state authority, and 3,200 villages have been liberated by peaceful means. Since the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, more than 40,000 armed representatives of the opposition have laid down their arms and ceased combat operations, more than 120,000 refugees have returned home, and 12,000 people have been released from jail. The country's new Constitution has laid the firm legal foundations of the multiparty system and a mixed economy. Five parties have been formed and are operating in the country. In accordance with the law on elections to the National Council, elections to the supreme organ of state power will be held in all regions of the country 5 through 14 April. The country's rate of economic development has increased during the year of national reconciliation. Numerous measures have been implemented to raise the peoples' living and cultural standards. All our successes," S.'A. Keshtmand emphasized, "are closely linked with the great and inestimable assistance of the Soviet Union and other friendly countries.

"The spirit of the policy of national reconciliation," the leader of the Afghan Government went on to say, "is also profoundly reflected in the country's foreign policy. Proceeding from this, we are guided by flexible approaches at the Geneva talks, have made many compromises, and taken constructive steps to prepare conditions for settling the situation around Afghanistan. But compromise and reconciliation both within a country and between countries cannot be a one-way street.

"The people of Afghanistan and all peace-loving forces of the world have warmly greeted the initiatives of Moscow and Kabul. But Pakistan and the United States have advanced artificial conditions which are absolutely alien to the essence of the Geneva talks. They run counter to the universally recognized principles of international law and relations among states. We hope," S.'A. Keshtmand emphasized, "that the Pakistani Government, guided by common sense and good will, will agree to sign the agreements."

The course of the Geneva talks is one of the chief topics of discussion in the conference corridors. What is the Pakistani emissaries' opinion of this?

"Our people have a vital interest in the successful conclusion of the Geneva talks," Iftikhar Gailani, member of the National People's Party of Pakistan Executive Committee, told our correspondent. "The clear and precise statements of M.S. Gorbachev and President Najibullah have removed all the obstacles to the talks' success. However, with the help of and under pressure from its Pakistani friends, the leading group of the Pakistani regime headed by President Ziaul Haq is erecting more and more artificial barriers to the reaching of agreements." [sentence as published]

"I think," Ajmal Khattak, chairman of the Jirgah of Free Pushtun Tribes, entered the conversation, "the government of Ziaul Haq is dragging out the talks in order to create more advantageous conditions for actions by the so-called mujahidin against the Republic of Afghanistan. Extremists of the Peshawar 'seven' Afghan counterrevolutionary organizations do not want the undeclared war to end.

"In resolving the regional conflict," A. Khattak said, "a very great deal depends on Ziaul Haq's senior partner—the U.S. Administration—and on whether it takes a reasonable stand on questions of a settlement."

'Regional Conflicts' Discussed

LD311536 Moscow TASS in English 0931 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul March 31 TASS—By TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev:

The international conference on the role of public in settling regional conflicts, sponsored by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation and Afghanistan's

Organisation of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship, ended here today. For three days representatives of 50 countries, 15 international and regional organisations discussed one of the most urgent issues: how to put an end to local wars in different parts of the world, like Afghanistan, the Middle East, Nicaragua, Kampuchea, South Africa and the Persian Gulf, how to prevent new crisis situations in the world, and what role can the progressively-minded world public play in solving these urgent issues.

The participants in the conference paid special attention to the discussion of ways of strengthening solidarity and support for the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at facilitating the earliest solution of the Afghan problem.

Apart from the final communique, the forum passed "An Address to the People of Afghanistan" and "An Address to the Peoples of the World", which emphasise the role of the public in solving regional conflicts.

'Address' to Afghan People

LD312052 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul March 31 TASS—An international conference on the role of the public in resolving regional conflicts came to a close in the Afghan capital today.

The meeting was sponsored by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) and Afghanistan's Organisation of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship.

Representatives of 50 countries, 15 international and regional organisations discussed during three days of work prospects of settling local wars, ending crisis situations in the world and the role of the progressive international public in resolving these urgent tasks.

The conference gave special attention to questions of strengthening solidarity with the Afghan people and backing Afghanistan's efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to one of the most dangerous regional conflicts.

The forum's participants adopted an address to the people of Afghanistan. The document highly praised the Afghan people's peace-making efforts and expressed support for the policy of national reconciliation designed to normalize the political climate in the region.

Forces committed to peace around the world were watching with hope the course of the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, the address said. Positive results of that process directed at ending one of the most protracted regional conflicts would set a good example to follow in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world.

The document expressed the hope that the Pakistani Government would respond by constructive steps to Afghanistan's good-neighbourly appeal and would act in accordance with the opinion of the world public which favoured the earliest solution of this regional conflict.

The participants in the conference expressed full support for the constructive stand taken by the Afghan party to the Geneva talks conducted through the U.N. secretary-general's personal representative.

Highly assessing the recent statements by President Najibullah and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev, the participants in the conference stated that specific and acceptable ideas contained in those statements paved the way for the successful completion of the Geneva talks.

"We cannot allow bloodshed in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Kampuchea, the Middle East, South Africa, the Persian Gulf and other parts of the world," said the final communique on the results of the conference's work.

Regional conflicts, it said, claimed many human lives and destroyed immense material resources. They undermined the efforts of the developing countries directed at resolving the most urgent social and economic problems.

The nine-year-long undeclared war against the Afghan people was one of the most dangerous conflicts of that kind, the communique said.

After several years of efforts, thanks to the Afghan Government's policy of national reconciliation, there emerged a chance to change the existing situation.

The delegates condemned the policy of Zionism, racism and apartheid.

Najibullah Presented With Medal

LD312320 Moscow TASS in English 2028 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul March 31 TASS—TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelyev reports:

The medal of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO), instituted to honour the 30th anniversary of its founding, was today presented to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, by AAPSO acting president Murab Ghaleb.

Speaking at the medal presentation ceremony, Najibullah drew attention to the great role the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement, which has become an important factor of international life, has to play today. Through the 30 years of its existence, the AAPSO at whose cradle stood such outstanding figures of the national liberation movement as, among others, Al-Nasir and Nehru, made a great contribution to the cause of the national and

social liberation of the two continents, to the anti-imperialist struggle of peoples, to the efforts to abolish the colonial mainstays, to the cause of asserting peace, stability and security on earth, Najibullah emphasized.

The accomplishments by the solidarity movement are obvious and generally recognized. Afghanistan shares the lofty ideals of Afro-Asian solidarity and makes a contribution which is within its powers to the implementation of the tasks faced by the movement today.

Najibullah Addresses Conference

LD010200 Moscow TASS in English 2315 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul April 1 TASS—A press conference and a meeting of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, with the participants in an international conference, "The Role of the Public in Settling Regional Conflicts", was held in Kabul Thursday.

The world public is called upon to play an important role in settling local conflicts, the president said. As history shows, small regional conflicts can outgrow into large-scale wars. Summing up the results of many years of war in Afghanistan, we reached the conclusion that the national reconciliation policy can open up a real way towards attaining peace in our country. There is no other alternative to this policy.

The principles underlying this policy are well known—ending war, ensuring the interests of the whole nation, which are above the limited interests of individual groups, tribes or clans, the possibility of an involvement in the country's socio-political life for representatives of all groups and segments of society, which was reflected in Afghanistan's new constitution.

The general elections to the National Council, the supreme legislative body of the country, beginning on April 5, will become a specific embodiment of the ideas of national reconciliation. It should be noted here that all Afghans, among them representatives of the opposition, refugees and nomads, are eligible. These will be the first elections of a truly democratic nature in Afghanistan.

The president recalled that earlier the leaders of the opposing side were proposed a number of high posts in a government, including the premiership.

More than 120,000 refugees have returned to the homeland over a year that has passed since the national reconciliation policy was announced, 40,000 members of opposition groups downed arms, of which 6,000 take a vigorous part in the work of local government bodies. At the same time, the national reconciliation policy ran up against great difficulties, the president noted.

All manner of obstacles are erected to this policy on the part of the extremist quarters of the opposition and the imperialist forces standing behind their back. Western countries continue with supplying weapons to the extremists, although the Afghan side unilaterally announced the ceasefire, and blocking the return of Afghan refugees. British Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles down planes in the sky of Afghanistan to this day and in opposition camps in Pakistani territory specialists from the Federal Republic of Germany are busy training armed formations, President Najibullah said.

So, the West slows down in every way the solution on the whole of the Afghan problem, which is reflected, in part, in the current Afghan-Pakistani negotiations in Geneva, conducted with the mediation of the personal representative of U.N. secretary-general. Geneva patently demonstrates who favours in the action the earliest political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and who are against it. [sentence as received]

The latest statements by the leaders of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan of February 8 and March 15 removed all the impediments to a successful conclusion of the Geneva negotiations, that existed earlier. [Moscow TASS in English at 0429 GMT on 1 April transmits the following correction to the preceding sentence: "The latest statements by the Soviet Union of February 8 and March 15 removed all the impediments to a successful conclusion of the Geneva negotiations, that existed earlier." (rewording)] And if real progress has not been attained by today, the responsibility for this rests squarely with Pakistan and the United States, the Afghan president concluded.

India To Buy 2 Nuclear Reactors From USSR

BK010728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, April 1 (AFP)—India will buy two 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactors from the Soviet Union under an agreement expected to be signed by the end of April, a newspaper said here Friday.

M.R. Srinivasan, chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, will leave for Moscow Saturday [2 April] to hold a final round of talks with Soviet officials ahead of signing an agreement, THE HINDU reported from Bombay.

Under the agreement, the Soviet Union would ensure regular supplies of enriched uranium and take back used fuel in a bid to avoid controversies over international safeguards, the daily said. No cost was mentioned.

Officials were not available here Good Friday, a public holiday, to confirm the report, which was unsourced.

India is not a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which it says discriminates against developing countries. Some observers have said imported nuclear reactors could be open to international inspection.

New Delhi has said previously that it was considering a Soviet offer to sell it nuclear reactors, first made in 1979. The 1986 Chernobyl disaster sparked off opposition to Soviet nuclear technology.

India's nuclear programme, which aims at raising nuclear power generation ten-fold to 10,000 megawatts by the turn of the century, is mostly indigenous with imports restricted to raw materials and special components.

PLO Envoy Comments on Moving UN Headquarters

PM010925 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Dispatch by own correspondent Yu. Kosinskiy: "United Nations: Statement by PLO Representative"]

[Text] Geneva—A. Shalnev's report from New York entitled "What Next?" about the United States' unprecedented decision, counter to international law and international public opinion, to close the PLO's UN mission (see IZVESTiYA No 85) ended on an interrogatory note. "There is a way out of the situation which has taken shape," Nabil Ramlawi, the PLO's permanent UN observer, believes. He noted in a statement for the press:

"While waiting to see how the examination of the question of the fate of the PLO's New York mission—a question imposed by the United States on the international community—will end, we cannot pin great hopes on the effectiveness of the decision of the International Court in the Hague. The United States takes the court's opinion into consideration only when it suits it to do so.

"Washington's decision to close the PLO mission is a flagrant violation of the agreement between the United States and the United Nations on the status of that organization's headquarters and it obliges us to raise the fundamental question of the expediency of the further residence of that headquarters in New York, for after all, any country which refuses to yield to U.S. pressure might be in a position similar to the PLO," Ramlawi stressed, expressing the firm conviction that it is necessary to transfer the PLO mission from New York to Geneva.

"It is well known," the PLO representative stressed, "that Switzerland strictly observes its commitments to the United Nations and to ensuring the security of foreign missions, while at the same time not a single foreign mission in New York can feel safe."

Is the view expressed by Ramlawi his strictly personal opinion or does it reflect a broader view of the problem?

"Many countries, and not only states of the Arab world, are now reviewing their attitude toward the residence of the UN headquarters in New York," Ramlawi says. "Their desire to put an end to the policy of U.S. blackmail and diktat and to insure conditions for dialogue is perfectly understandable."

But what do the Swiss authorities think on the subject? "We are prepared to receive those who want to come," Swiss federal adviser Edouard Brunner comments on the question of the possibility of moving UN institutions from New York to Geneva. Switzerland strictly observes its commitments with regard to UN institutions and sees no obstacles to this on the political plane. The only difficulties which might arise if this decision were taken would be connected with the location of the new missions, Brunner believes.

Israel Threatens Saudi Missiles, Pakistani Plant

PM311431 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA Press Service report: "Is Tel Aviv Preparing?"]

[Text] Israel is looking at the possibility of military operations against Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. There have been increasingly frequent reports about this in the Western mass media recently.

Britain's THE OBSERVER points out that in military-political circles, Israel is working on the question of a "surgical" bombing raid on the uranium enrichment plant in Kahuta near the Pakistani capital. In the newspaper's opinion, the Israelis have long been monitoring the work at this installation. The Kahuta enterprise came on line more than 2 years ago; however, THE OBSERVER notes, it was only quite recently that it acquired the capability to produce weapons-grade materials. In this connection, the newspaper notes, Tel Aviv has unambiguously hinted that it will attentively monitor any possible attempts by Pakistan to share its experience in the sphere of nuclear research with Arab countries.

At the same time, THE WASHINGTON POST writes, citing U.S. intelligence organs, the Israeli Air Force is currently rehearsing unusually intensive low-altitude bombing missions. This rehearsal of bombing methods, the newspaper continues, is possibly being carried out as a prelude to a preemptive strike against the Saudi medium-range "surface-to-surface" missiles deployed south of Riyadh. These Chinese-made missiles with a range of 2,500-3,560 km can in practice reach all Israeli territory.

According to an AFP correspondent, Saudi Arabia's deployment of these missiles has caused serious concern to Israeli politicians and military, who have openly threatened Riyadh. Thus, clearly hinting at the possibility of a bombing raid against the Saudi missile positions, Y. Ben-Aharon, director of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, stated recently on Israeli radio: "In the past the State of Israel has proved that it is not accustomed to waiting for a potential threat to become a real threat." He added that "there is always a possibility" of the missiles being destroyed by the Israelis.

As is well known, Tel Aviv is already "experienced" in such operations. In June 1981 Israeli aircraft attacked and bombed the Iraqi nuclear center near Baghdad.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visits UAE

Leaves Moscow

LD311055 Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—A special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, led by Vice President Of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Georgiy Tarazevich, left Moscow today for the United Arab Emirates.

Stops Over in Cyprus

LD311708 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Nicosia March 31 TASS—A special mission from the USSR Supreme Soviet led by G.S. Tarazevich, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, made a stopover in Cyprus on the way from Moscow to the United Arab Emirates.

At Larnaca Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Deputies of the House of Representatives (Parliament) of Cyprus Michalis Poumbouris and S. Chajiyannis [names as received].

The welcoming party included the Soviet ambassador to Cyprus, Yu. Ye. Fokin.

In a brief conversation the Cyprus parliamentarians highly assessed the Soviet Union's stance on the Cyprus issue.

The members of the special mission made a sight-seeing tour of Larnaca.

Arrives in Abu Dhabi

LD010938 Moscow TASS in English 0912 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi April 1 TASS—A special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet arrived in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, on Thursday. The delegation is led by Georgiy Tarazevich, vice president of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The delegation also includes deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet Muminsho Kanoatov [name as received] and Sergey Losev.

The special mission was welcomed by members of the Federal National Council (Parliament) of the United Arab Emirates and other officials.

The special mission will also visit Oman and Kuwait.

East Europe

USSR-SFRY Long-Term Economic Program

PM311355 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 13, Mar 88 (Signed to Press 24 Mar 88) p 21

["Long-Term Program for Economic Cooperation Between the USSR and the SFRY Through the Year 2000" carried under the headline "In the Interests of the Development of Intensive Cooperation"—first paragraph is an EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] A series of Soviet-Yugoslav documents, including a Long-Term Program for Economic Cooperation Between the USSR and the SFRY Through the Year 2000, were signed during the official friendly visit to the SFRY by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Federal Executive Council of the Federal Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, hereinafter referred to as the parties,

In conformity with the policy of the USSR and the policy of the SFRY aimed at further strengthening friendship between the peoples of both countries,

Proceeding from the determination to continue to develop and deepen all-around mutually advantageous and equal economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in line with the principles contained in the 1955 Belgrade Declaration, the 1956 Moscow Statement and Declaration, and other Soviet-Yugoslav documents,

Taking into consideration the level attained in the development of both countries' national economies, their economic potential and their complementary nature, the need to enhance production efficiency, and other goals of economic and social development, primarily on the basis of accelerating scientific and technical progress,

Relying on the results of the development of economic cooperation, the relations established in the course of this cooperation, and the experience accumulated during the implementation of the Long-Term Program for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation between the USSR and the SFRY for 1981-1990 and the Basic Guidelines for Long-Term Cooperation Between the USSR and the SFRY in the Sphere of Science and Technology Through the Year 2000,

In the interests of the development of intensive cooperation between interested scientific research and economic organizations and associations on a long-term and stable basis,

Have adopted the present Long-Term Program for Economic Cooperation Between the USSR and the SFRY Through the Year 2000.

I.

The development of economic cooperation between the USSR and the SFRY on a long-term basis will contribute to the more rational utilization of existing production capacities and material resources and the application of highly efficient equipment and technologies in both countries' national economy.

The volumes, conditions, and forms of such cooperation will be determined by the competent organs and/or organizations of both countries for the appropriate periods and will be formulated in agreements, contracts, and other documents.

The parties believe the basis of future stable and long-term economic relations is provided by the all-around development of production ties between Soviet and Yugoslav organizations with the application of primarily advanced forms of cooperation, which will have a substantial effect on the improvement of commodity turnover structure.

The development of economic cooperation between the two countries must be implemented on the basis of equilibrium in the balance of payments relationship.

II.

In the course of the further development of Soviet-Yugoslav economic cooperation, the parties will give particular attention to:

The enhancement of the technical standards and quality of reciprocally delivered output in line with the requirements of scientific and technical progress;

The rational utilization of economic potential, especially in machine building, including shipbuilding, bearing in mind the specialization of existing and newly created production units in conformity with mutual interests;

The development and introduction in production of new technological processes, machines, equipment, units, and components up to world technical standards and ensuring high labor productivity, automation, savings of energy and of raw and other materials, and a high degree of thoroughness in raw-material processing;

The development of specialization and production sharing in units and components, reciprocal deliveries of kits, units, and spare parts, rational division of production programs, and specialization in the development of individual components of capital equipment;

The improvement of the structure of production and of the consumption of raw and other material and the reduction of the energy- and materials-intensiveness of production on the basis of the introduction of modern technological processes and the broad application of waste-free technologies.

For this purpose, the parties will encourage the development of mutually advantageous long-term cooperation between interested organs and organizations on the production and reciprocal delivery of the following machine building products:

Flexible production systems and robots and robotic complexes based on equipment with progressive digital program control systems, components for them, and instruments;

Equipment, units, and parts for the radio and electronics industry, communications means, and computer equipment;

New types of machines and equipment for heavy, power, and nuclear machine building, the electrical equipment and petrochemical industries, road building equipment, and equipment for the production of foodstuffs and industrial consumer goods;

Equipment for the comprehensive mechanization and automation of production processes and of loading, unloading, and warehousing operations in industry, the construction industry, agriculture, and transport;

New generations of ships and ship equipment, modern automobiles and trucks, aviation equipment, pipeline equipment, and railroad and urban transport means and equipment to high technical and economic specifications.

Particular attention will be given to the supply of spare parts for reciprocally delivered machines and equipment and their technical servicing.

The parties will take the appropriate measures to develop cooperation in the sphere of production and reciprocal deliveries of fuel, energy, nonferrous and ferrous metals, and other raw material commodities.

Cooperation will expand in:

The chemical industry—on the production of toxic chemicals, varnishes and paints, polyurethanes, petrochemical products, industrial rubber products, low-bulk chemical industry products, and raw materials for their production;

In ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy—on improving the quality, increasing the volume, and expanding the products range;

In the timber, pulp, and paper industry—on expanding the range and the exchanges of technologies and equipment;

In the pharmaceutical industry—on reciprocal deliveries of medicines and of raw and semiprocessed materials and substances for their production.

Cooperation in the sphere of the production of foodstuffs and industrial consumer goods will be channeled toward increasing the manufacture of high quality goods in a broader range, expanding specialization and production sharing, and increasing reciprocal deliveries. This will also be furthered by other forms of trade cooperation including the opening of specialized stores.

In the agro-industrial complex, the parties will channel their efforts toward expansion of cooperation in the sphere of selection and genetics, the production and exchange of seeds and planting materials, and the development and exchange of highly efficient technology and information. There will be joint work on the development and assimilation of new types of chemical plant protection agents and of machine and equipment systems for the harvesting, postharvest handling, and waste-free processing and storage of agricultural produce, and the automation of livestock and poultry breeding stock units. There will be broader exchanges of experience on the reduction of losses during the production, storage, transportation, and processing of agriculture and food industry products and on questions concerning the further improvement of the organization and management of production in the agro-industrial complex.

The parties will engage in cooperation on the development of land reclamation, irrigation, and soil cultivation systems aimed at maintaining and boosting soil fertility.

The parties attach great importance to the further development of cooperation in the sphere of capital construction and the reconstruction and modernization of industrial, power supply, agro-industrial, tourist, and other facilities by means of planning and research work, supply of machines and equipment, provision of assistance in their installation, trial runs, and commissioning, and joint construction of projects.

In the sphere of transport, and with a view to ensuring the proper and prompt carriage of passengers and freight between the two countries and of shipments in transit, the parties will assist the further development of cooperation by:

Ensuring the necessary throughput and carrying capacities for the prompt and unhindered transportation of foreign trade shipments and consignments in transit;

Developing and introducing modern technologies for the carrying of shipments by all types of transport and the handling of freight at transshipment stations, thus ensuring greater economic efficiency of shipments;

More swiftly developing passenger transport, primarily air transport, and providing passenger services in international transport of the standard required to meet modern demands.

The parties will take the necessary measures to expand cooperation in the sphere of tourism and to increase the exchange of tourists between the two countries and the exchanges of experience and specialists, and will assist the specialization and training of cadres from appropriate organizations in the sphere of foreign tourism.

III.

The parties will give particular attention to the development of new forms of cooperation between organizations from both countries—the establishment of direct production, scientific, and technical ties between USSR and SFRY enterprises, associations, and organizations, the establishment of joint enterprises, joint capital investment, and other forms of cooperation.

In the event of mutual interest, USSR and SFRY organizations will set up joint enterprises on USSR territory and will implement joint capital investment in the SFRY in accordance with their countries' legislation.

IV.

The parties have agreed that the implementation of the Long-Term Program for Economic Cooperation Between the USSR and the SFRY Through the Year 2000 will be achieved by means of:

Joint elaboration and conclusion of agreements on economic cooperation for 5-year or longer periods in spheres and sectors of mutual interest;

Conclusion of contracts on cooperation in production, specialization, and production sharing, on reciprocal commodity deliveries, and on economic and technical cooperation in the construction, reconstruction, and modernization of industrial and other projects;

Development of new forms of production cooperation and joint ventures in third country markets;

Improvement of the financial, banking, and credit mechanism of cooperation;

Development of economic cooperation between republics, regions, and cities in both countries.

The parties have agreed that the Intergovernmental Soviet-Yugoslav Committee on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation will supervise the implementation of the program either directly or through its working organs, will assist the conclusion of contracts and agreements between interested organs and organizations for the purpose of this program's implementation, and will recommend other measures aimed at the implementation and expansion of stable and mutually advantageous cooperation.

The Long-Term Program for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and the SFRY for 1981-1990, dated 23 September 1980, will lapse upon the signing of this program.

The present program will enter into force following approval by competent organs of both countries, so that it will operate provisionally from the day of its signing.

Hungarian Reform 'Instructive' for Soviets
AU280818 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 22 Mar 88 p 6

[Interview with Marina Usiyevich, founding member and staff member of the Economics of the World Socialist System Institute in Moscow, signed by G.Zs.-H.Sz.: "An Open Exchange of Views on Economics and Politics—The Gyor International Conference Has Concluded—Marina Usiyevich: The Hungarian Experiences Are Instructive;" date and place not given]

[Text] The concluding remarks of Chairman Dr Kalman Pecsi ended a 4-day international scientific conference at Gyor on 21 March. In the course of the conference, economists and businessmen from socialist and capitalist countries expressed their opinions on the prospects and the expected social and political results of the reform under way in most of the socialist countries.

In spite of differing opinions, one can say that the guests at the 4-day consultation—guests with different outlooks—came to Gyor to express their opinions as economists on the socialist reform of the economy, and not to engage in politics. The debate will certainly contribute toward giving scientific support to the various opinions concerning the chances of reform alternatives.

Marina Usiyevich (USSR) is a founding member of the famous Economics of the World Socialist System Institute in Moscow which is headed by Prof Bogomolov, and at present heads the institute's Hungarian department. Previously, she was a staff member at the USSR Embassy in Budapest. In her address at the conference, which met with great interest, she analyzed the particular characteristics of Hungarian reform.

[NEPSZABADSAG] You have been studying the reform of the Hungarian economy for a long time and have been publishing your observations in the Soviet press. Is it possible to say on the basis of this that you took part in the theoretical preparation of Soviet restructuring?

[Usiyevich] Our institute was studying the reform of the Hungarian economy with scientific objectivity even before the idea of restructuring was conceived. At the request of a Soviet Government committee, I wrote a paper on Hungarian experiences, and I know that my paper was intensively studied by leading economic policy experts. A book I wrote was published in 1987, though a small number of copies were printed. The book was entitled: "The Problems of the Hungarian Economy in a Period of Intensification;" I wrote it at the beginning of the eighties. All this is for the record; but I cannot determine whether all this influenced Soviet restructuring—and if it did, to what extent. What I can say, however, is that the experiences of the Hungarian reform are very instructive for us.

[NEPSZABADSAG] To what extent are they instructive?

[Usiyevich] First I would like to make it clear that in my opinion, the experiences are instructive not only for us. The Hungarian reform as a pioneering experience has very important historical and international significance. Not only the successes but also the failures of reform are instructive for us.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Does this mean that if the Hungarian experiences are at the disposal of the Soviet Union, it can avoid certain pitfalls?

[Usiyevich] It means this too, although the reorganization of the economic mechanism in the Soviet Union is being carried out under completely different conditions. To give an example, certain failures of the Hungarian reform were the result mainly of the international conditions under which Hungary exists, and not so much from deficiencies in the original ideas. The Soviet Union does not at all have to take external conditions into consideration, or has to a much smaller extent. Another important difference is that whereas trade in means of production in Hungary was reorganized, the conditions of the enterprises in the Soviet Union continue to depend to a large extent on the subsidies they get. The planning system in the Soviet Union hardly changed at all, and the enterprises are told what amount they can spend and on what they can spend it.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Does this not contradict the Soviet enterprise law?

[Usiyevich] The basic principles of the Soviet reform are part of the new enterprise law. The rights of the enterprises have been extended, and the economic units are able to make their own plans and work in the spirit of restructuring. Certain orders that are placed by the state, however, have to be filled the same as the plan of the people's economy. The standards are adjusted to the plan of the people's economy.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Going back to your Hungarian experiences, what do you think is particularly important in our reform policy?

[Usiyevich] What I think primarily important is the fact that the party initiated the Hungarian reform and it was preceded by thorough economic, ideological, and political preparations. Economic reorganization in Hungary was started by rationalizing production, rather than by increasing prices, as this was done in a few socialist

countries; and you succeeded in maintaining the consumer market in a balance which at the time contributed quite a lot to making reform policy popular.

Briefs

Tashkent-Prague Flights

Regular flights between Tashkent and Prague have begun. An IL-62 took only 6 hours to cover the new route, which will be most convenient for the increasing flow of tourists between the two countries. [Summary] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 31 Mar 88 LD*]

GDR Scientific Meeting

A routine session of the Standing Subcommission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the USSR and the GDR was held in Moscow on 28-29 March. Questions of further developing bilateral contacts in science and technology, and primarily relating to the accomplishment of tasks in the comprehensive program of scientific-technological progress of the CEMA member countries up to the year 2000, were considered. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 88 LD*]

West Europe

Europarliament Resolution on Armenia Condemned

PM310759 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 4

[S. Guk rejoinder: "People Will Work Things Out Even Without the European Parliament...."]

[Text] The European Parliament, sitting in Strasbourg, is considered to be one of the EEC's national organs. True, it has little real power, and what it has does not in the main go beyond the framework of certain of the community's budget questions. The European Parliament cannot, for instance, intervene in the events in Northern Ireland and restore justice there. That is not its job. Just as it has no part to play in discussing the ethnic conflicts in Belgium.

But recently Strasbourg decided to break with tradition by adopting a resolution announcing the European Parliament's intention to "follow attentively" the peoples' desire to "assert their culture and autonomy." True, not that of their own peoples: The discussion was about "events in Armenia."

The resolution did not mention when it was that the Transcaucasus came under the guardianship of the West European community. The question of how events there could "directly affect" West European interests was also passed over in silence. But what about the main thing—what does the European Parliament hope to achieve by this resolution? Does it hope to help someone? That is laughable, especially if one bears in mind the fact that we are talking about a body that is unable to help ethnic groups within its own community.

Meanwhile, the peoples living in the USSR have resolved and continue to resolve their problems without outside interference. They will work things out, we hope, this time as well. The European Parliament would do better to tackle its own problems, of which it has plenty.

'Provocative' UK Falklands Exercises Ending

LD311458 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Buenos Aires March 31 Tass—According to reports reaching here, British airborne troops who took part in the "Fire Focus" manoeuvres on the Falklands (Malvinas) Islands, are returning to Britain. These provocative war games began on March 7 despite a powerful wave of protests in Argentina and other Latin American countries. Their culmination point was the airlifting of a task force to strengthen a garrison of two thousand servicemen London maintains on a permanent basis on the archipelago it occupies in South Atlantic. In the process, the U.S. military base on the Ascension Island served as a transit point, a function it has already filled during the Anglo-Argentine armed conflict in 1982. Thus again, as six years ago, the world has witnessed the complete commonality of the strategic interests of Washington and London—the two leading NATO partners whose strategists have long regarded the British stronghold on the Falklands as their major outpost in South Atlantic.

Protests Against French Nuclear Tests Continue

PM311337 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Second Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Bolshakov: "New Atoll Used for Nuclear Explosions"]

[Text] Paris, 29 Mar—Vice Admiral Pierre Thireaut, commander of the French Pacific Fleet, stated during his visit to Australia that France is assigning yet another atoll in French Polynesia—Fangatau—for nuclear tests. Nuclear explosions have already been carried out there: In 1975 the two first French nuclear explosion programs—"Achille" and "Hector"—were carried out there. After France stopped atmospheric nuclear tests, the testing range on Fangatau was closed down temporarily.

Now, according to Thireaut, France will carry out nuclear explosions of high-yield charges on this atoll and of low-yield charges on Mururoa Atoll. Announcing this decision, the vice admiral projected the impression that France is "being responsive to the wishes" of the Pacific island states by taking into consideration their protests against France's nuclear tests on Mururoa Atoll.

The protests have indeed been extremely vigorous recently, especially after it became known that, as a result of the nuclear tests on Mururoa, radioactive coral dust could fall off the atoll into the waters of the Pacific. The French authorities pretended that the island states, notably Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea, were only protesting the consequences of the nuclear explosions on Mururoa Atoll, when in fact they were protesting the entire program of French nuclear tests in the Pacific. Now they have flared up with new force. L'HUMANITE writes today that France's decision to use Fangatau for nuclear explosions compels French peace campaigners to redouble their actions in defense of nuclear disarmament and against French nuclear tests.

FRG's Genscher Notes Importance of Relations

LD301959 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Bonn March 30 TASS—Relations with the Soviet Union are of cardinal importance for the Federal Republic of Germany, and the FRG Government will be doing its utmost for their further development, FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said here today during a meeting with foreign journalists accredited in Bonn. It should not be forgotten that it is precisely Nazi Germany that attacked the Soviet Union and that German troops invaded its territory, he said in this connection. Therefore the FRG bears special responsibility for the improvement of relations with the USSR and for the strengthening of East-West confidence, he said.

"During the visit of FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Moscow to be made in autumn, we intend to discuss all the important matters with Soviet leaders in an open and serious way," the foreign minister said. Noting that the policy of the Soviet leadership headed by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev paved the way for the conclusion of the Soviet-American treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and for an effective control of its fulfillment, just as for the conclusion of future agreements for disarmament, Hans-Dietrich Genscher emphasized that the West should positively respond to this policy which suits the interests of both the East and the West.

The head of the FRG foreign policy department also declared for the intensification of economic and technological cooperation between member-countries of the Common Market and of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. He expressed the hope that they will shortly sign a joint statement and thus create the framework for the deepening of cooperation.

Asked about his attitude to notorious Cocom lists putting obstacles to trade between capitalist and socialist countries, Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared for striking various products off these lists and said this will be promoted by the nascent process of disarmament and confidence-building between the East and the West.

The FRG foreign minister is of the opinion that there are no grounds for delaying the conclusion of an agreement of a comprehensive chemical weapons ban.

West German, Soviet Military Experts Meet

LD311746 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Bonn March 31 TASS—A first Soviet-West German meeting to compare the military doctrines of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO has been held in Hamburg.

The three-day event sponsored by the Hamburg-based International Institute of World Politics and Economics-Haus Rissen and the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation drew authorities on military-political issues, generals and other officers, diplomats and scientists from the two countries.

The discussions focused on issues of safeguarding European and international security, comparing and interpreting the military doctrines of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, ways of lowering the military potentials down to the level sufficient for defence and precluding the capability for a sudden attack and offensive operations.

Much attention was given to the need to overcome the "enemy image" and to the search for ways and means to remove mutual concerns, suspicion and mistrust.

Within this context, the Soviet participants in the meeting drew attention to the need to speed up efforts to working out joint approaches for safeguarding mutual security by reducing nuclear and conventional arms, the need to impart fresh impulses to the process of disarmament on the whole, promoting cooperation and trust, including in the military field.

Both sides stressed the importance of the concerted search for ways to prevent a war, nuclear or conventional, and further steps in the field of nuclear disarmament launched by the Soviet-American INF Treaty, reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments and removal of the existing imbalances and asymmetries in Europe.

Participants in the debates stressed the need for mutual restraint in the military field and overcoming the "enemy image" by rejecting charges of deliberate aggressiveness allegedly intrinsic in the opposing party.

The meeting also revealed differences in approaches to the solution of tasks in this field, which was often explained by the stability of old stereotypes in looking at each other.

In the opinion of both sides, the discussion, held in a business-like, at times acute, but constructive on the whole atmosphere, facilitated better understanding of each other's views, removing biased assessments with regard to doctrines and specific efforts towards safeguarding security.

The Soviet and West German experts came out in favour of more meetings to maintain constant dialogue with a view to improving mutual understanding and building confidence in the military field.

Further Reportage on Natta Moscow Visit

Natta News Conference

PM311311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "For Deeper Ties"]

[Text] At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center on 30 March, A. Natta, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], summed up the results of his trip to Moscow. Sharing his impressions of his meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, he described it as interesting and useful. In the PCI leader's opinion, the talks provided an opportunity for an open comparison of political views.

A. Natta pointed out that he has had repeated occasion to meet and talk with M.S. Gorbachev. I believe, he said, that he is a strong political personality capable of taking a long-term view, including a very long-term view, updating ideas, and drawing up major projects. He is distinguished by a good knowledge of specific problems, respect for the position of others, and the ability to listen to an interlocutor and conduct a dialogue.

Asked to assess the processes of restructuring taking place in the USSR, the PCI secretary general pointed out that the PCI delegation members are greatly impressed by the CPSU leadership's activity in democratizing both internal party life and the life of the whole of Soviet society. He particularly singled out the CPSU's determination to fulfill the role of society's political vanguard on condition that other organs—the soviets above all—must fulfill the functions of management and administration.

Answering a question from a West German television correspondent who asked for an assessment of the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh, A. Natta agreed with M.S. Gorbachev that such problems must be resolved by democratic methods while respecting the culture, originality, and equality of all nationalities.

Considerable attention was devoted to international problems at the press conference. Italian Communists, Natta said, show great interest in the process of detente and disarmament in Europe, a constituent part of which is the ensuring of security in the Mediterranean. In this connection the PCI leader evaluated M.S. Gorbachev's Belgrade initiatives highly, emphasizing that the freezing of navies with their subsequent reduction and withdrawal from that region is the starting point for normalizing the situation there.

A. Natta welcomed the USSR's efforts to resolve the Afghan problem. He said that the USSR's firm intention to withdraw the troops from Afghanistan, promote the reaching of corresponding accords at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, and ensure a solution which will enable Afghanistan to be an independent, nonaligned state was expressed during the talks with M.S. Gorbachev. In this way, the PCI secretary general emphasized, a question which was once a source of friction in CPSU-PCI relations will be resolved.

Touching on the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, A. Natta confirmed the Italian Communists' solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle in defense of their legitimate rights. The Palestinians' mass actions on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip confirm that Israel's policy is in an impasse, he said, and the Palestinian problem cannot be resolved from a position of strength. The Italian Communists' leader advocated the convening of an international conference on the Near East with the obligatory participation of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The policy of restructuring in the USSR is also influencing the activities of Western communist parties, the Italian Communists' leader said. The success of the revolutionary transformations in the Soviet Union accords with the interests of all progressive forces in Europe and in the world. He voiced the opinion that the difficulties which occurred in the Soviet Union, referred to as stagnation phenomena, also had a negative impact on the international workers movement. What is now happening in the USSR gives the West's left-wing forces new opportunities.

G. Napolitano and A. Rubbi, members of the PCI leadership, also participated in the press conference. Replying to a question from a XINHUA correspondent about the prospects for the international communist movement, G. Napolitano emphasized that, in the opinion of Italian Communists, there are two components in Europe which make up progressive forces. On the one hand there are the communist parties, and on the other the socialist, social democratic, and labor parties, whose activity should be viewed comprehensively. It is already possible to speak today of a coincidence of viewpoints on problems such as international detente, disarmament, and cooperation, and not only between East and West but between North and South. It is a question of problems which all progressive forces must strive to resolve. It is necessary to proceed here both from unconditional recognition of the parties' independence and autonomy and from the need to continue the search for points of contact.

Speaking about problems in the development of PCI-CPSU relations, the press conference participants advocated the deepening and intensification of ties between Italian and Soviet Communists.

Gromyko, Natta Speeches

PM311429 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 88 Second Edition pp 1-2

[TASS report: "Presentation of Order"]

[Text] A.A. Gromyko presented the Order of the October Revolution to Alessandro Natta, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], in the Kremlin on 30 March.

Speaking at the award presentation, A.A. Gromyko declared:

Dear Comrade Natta!

Esteemed Italian friends!

Comrades!

By decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Comrade Alessandro Natta, secretary general of the PCI, has been awarded the Order of the October Revolution for his services in the struggle for social progress, peace, democracy, and the strengthening of friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Italy and in connection with his 70th birthday.

In presenting this high Soviet award to you today, I wish to say, first of all, that your name, Comrade Allessandro Natta, is well known not only to Soviet Communists but also to the whole world's progressive public. It has a weighty and authoritative ring to it, because the whole difficult and happy fate which fell to your lot—the fate of being a fighter for the working people's cause—is inseparably linked with the PCI's activity. It is expressed in consistent defense of the Italian working people's interests and in the championing of the ideals of peace, democracy, and socialism.

You began the conscious life of a patriot in your youth, when, still a student, you embarked on a path of struggle against the fascist regime and participated in fighting against the Nazis who had invaded Italy. You found yourself incarcerated during those days, but you performed underground work as an antifascist even under brutal concentration camp conditions.

You have been in the PCI's ranks since 1945—already more than 4 decades. As a communist, you have shown yourself to be a true fighter for the working people's cause.

Soviet people know the well thought-out and efficient way in which you championed the interests of the country's working people over a number of years in the post of chairman of the communist group in the Italian Parliament's Chamber of Deputies.

Your comrades in the party rate highly your adherence to principles in the struggle for the working people's cause. Precisely this was why you were elected the party's secretary general in June 1984.

In this post you are continuing the cause of the PCI's best sons—Antonio Gramsci and Palmiro Togliatti, Luigi Longo and Enrico Berlinguer—and are making a specific contribution to strengthening the unity of left-wing forces and to an understanding of the dialectics of problems common to all mankind.

You have done a great deal to deepen relations between Soviet and Italian Communists and between the Soviet and Italian peoples. People in the Soviet Union value highly the Italian Communists' support for our policy of restructuring—a policy aimed at transforming Soviet society and creating a new system of international relations which accords with people's innermost aspirations of removing the threat of war and preserving peace.

We for our part are doing all in our power to help expand cooperation and fraternal solidarity between our parties and mutual understanding between our peoples.

You had a meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, yesterday. It is of great significance for our parties, for the development of friendly ties between the Soviet and Italian peoples, and for the international communist movement as a whole.

The thorough talks provided an opportunity to discuss a range of fundamental questions of Soviet-Italian relations and the chief problems of contemporary international, particularly European, politics. You were given a generalized description of the changes in Soviet society during the initial period of restructuring and were told how we are seeking to breathe new life into our revolution's great creation—the soviets of people's deputies. Both sides displayed a creative approach to continuing the constructive dialogue between the two parties under conditions of equal rights, respectfulness, and their full independence.

The Order of the October Revolution is a lofty and worthy state award. On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government I congratulate you on receiving it.

Allow me to wish you good health, a great store of creative strength and energy, and successes in your fruitful activity in the name of peace, socialism, and friendship among the peoples.

In his reply speech A. Natta said:

Dear Comrade Gromyko!

Dear Comrades!

I warmly thank the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for this high award, which is a great honor and joy for me, and for the warm words which Comrade Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, addressed to me and which touched me deeply.

My 70th birthday, which I celebrated several months ago—I will venture to remark that I am in a certain sense a coeval of the Great October Revolution—would not be sufficient grounds for an award if almost my whole life had not been devoted to our cause and to political struggle and if I had not struggled in the PCI's ranks, starting in the period of the resistance movement and the war for Italy's liberation from fascism.

Firm, unshakable conviction as to the justice and value of the ideals of the working people's liberation and as to the need to struggle for the peoples' right to freedom, democracy, socialism, and peace has inspired me for more than 40 years.

Throughout this period marked by so many dramatic events and by struggle and changes in the world, in Italy, and in the Soviet Union I have struggled in the PCI's ranks for strong relations of friendship, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and Italy and for the development of relations of cooperation between our two parties.

I wholeheartedly thank you for the respect shown to the PCI secretary general and, consequently, to the struggle, positions, and activities of Italian Communists under conditions of their full independence. I accept this award conscious of the modest nature of my services and grateful at heart.

I thank you once again and wish for my part to express very best wishes for successes to the Soviet Union in the cause of restructuring. I wish also to wish for the further positive and fruitful development of relations between Italian and Soviet communists.

Thank you.

The speeches of A.A. Gromyko and A. Natta were applauded.

The award presentation was attended by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.V. Zagladin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; Giorgio Napolitano, member of the PCI Leadership and Secretariat; Antonio Rubbi, member of the PCI Leadership; and other officials.

Finnish-CEMA Cooperation Issues Discussed

PM311437 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Cooperation Issues Discussed"]

[Text] Helsinki, 29 Mar—A meeting took place today between V.V. Sychev, CEMA secretary, who is in Helsinki at the invitation of the Finnish Government, and Finnish President M. Koivisto. During the conversation they discussed questions of cooperation between CEMA and Finland.

Latin America & Caribbean

Nicaraguan President Denounces U.S. Contra Aid

LD010705 Moscow TASS in English 0605 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Managua April 1 TASS—President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua denounced here Thursday the Capitol's decision to provide further financial aid to Somocista mercenary groups for "humanitarian" purposes.

Speaking in an interview with local and foreign newsmen, he said the U.S. Administration is continuing to hope to quash the Sandinista revolution and solve the Central American issue by military means.

Ortega accused Washington of using all manner of tricks in a bid to thwart newly-started direct talks between the Nicaraguan Government and counter-revolutionary leaders on a ceasefire and an end to bloodletting in the country.

He said also that the U.S. Administration is going out of its way in the search for a pretext to charge the Nicaraguan national leadership with failing to honor its commitments to support the peace process and with engaging in direct armed intervention.

It is with this aim that the U.S. Government has been so eager to float allegations about Sandinista Army incursions into Honduras and Costa Rica, Ortega said.

The Nicaraguan president expressed the hope for specific accords with the contra leaders at the forthcoming ceasefire talks in Managua on April 6.

He added, however, that along with the United States which is opposed to a peaceful settlement in the region, opposition to the accords is coming also from some leaders of the "Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance" movement insisting on continued armed struggle against the Nicaraguan Government.

Despite the March 24 agreements with the contras on a reciprocal halt to offensive activities before the start of the talks, several cases of ceasefire violations have been registered over the past few days, the Nicaraguan president said. However, these violations have been insignificant, he added.

U.S. Trying To Cause 'Split' Among Contras

LD010936 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 31 Mar 88

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Andrey Ptashnikov with commentator Vyacheslav Lavrentyev]

[Excerpts] [Ptashnikov] Now on the situation around Nicaragua: The truce agreement comes into force in Nicaragua on 1 April. It was concluded between the Sandinist government and the contras. It makes a start to a peaceful settlement of the national problems in that country, which for almost 8 years has been the arena of many armed conflicts. However, according to reports from Washington, the U.S. Congress' House of Representatives has approved the allocation of $48 million to the Nicaraguan contras in the form of so-called nonmilitary aid. The U.S. Administration has naturally welcomed this decision, and its spokesman stated that the millions that have been allocated will be the U.S. contribution to the peace settlement in Nicaragua. However, the 70 congressmen who voted against granting the aid have a different opinion.

How will the process of reconciliation go in Nicaragua? What obstacles are there on this path, and what position does Washington occupy on all of this? My colleague, commentator Vyacheslav Lavrentyev, will answer these questions:

[Lavrentyev] Just a few days have passed since this agreement was signed in the small village of Sapoa. But a fairly definite conclusion can already be drawn as there have been so many utterances and statements about it. [passage omitted]

It is quite clear that the Sapoa agreement came as a big surprise to American diplomacy. The transfer of U.S. troops to neighboring Honduras to help the contras and the latest statements by White House representatives all indicated that the U.S. Administration had counted on using the contras to continue the undeclared war against Nicaragua.

However, the contra bosses agreed to the truce and talks with the government in view of the total lack of prospects of the armed struggle. They now have the opportunity to become integrated into the country's political life and, together with the internal opposition, to try their luck in the peaceful struggle for the electors' votes. But to do this they must lay down their arms.

In the next few days agreement will be reached on areas where the contra military units are located, and on 6 April representative delegations of the government and the contras will meet in Managua to make the truce permanent. It cannot be said that all the contra leaders supported the agreement. A number of them—those headquartered in Miami—state that they regard the agreement as a betrayal of their interests.

One can say almost definitely that the United States is trying to cause a split among the ranks of the contras, to find other pretexts to upset the peace settlement in Nicaragua. The latest statement by Secretary of State Shultz is worrying: He said that U.S. diplomacy was ready at a moment's notice to resume military aid to the contras as soon as it became known that Managua was violating the agreement. As if to order, a contra leader in Miami has already stated that the Sandinists had allegedly violated—true not the letter—the spirit of the agreement. As you can understand, the spirit of something is so elusive that it will be difficult to refute such statements. At any rate, when assistant secretary of state Abrams was asked by a CBS television company reporter whether the U.S. Administration would recognize the Nicaraguan Government if there were free elections there and the Sandinists won again, Abrams replied: No, it would not, as there can be no free elections in today's Nicaragua.

Fortunately, this opinion is held today only by Washington. The Latin American countries and the international community want the long-awaited peace to finally return to the long-suffering land of Nicaragua.

Latin American Group Condemns U.S. Sanctions

LD302114 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Caracas, March 30 TASS—The emergency conference of the Latin American Economic System (LAES) [SELA] here has condemned U.S. sanctions against Panama and demanded their annulment.

Of the 26 LAES members, only El Salvador, Honduras and Grenada did not take part in the two-day meeting, called at Panama's request to discuss the U.S. economic measures against that country in violation of the norms of international law.

The attending LAES nations entrusted Carlos Perez de Castillo, the group's standing secretary, with touring the countries of the region to coordinate their efforts to give economic and financial assistance to Panama.

Adamishin Describes Meeting With Cuba's Castro

FL310332 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba], has received Anatoliy Adamishin, Soviet deputy foreign minister, who formed part of the USSR delegation that participated in the recent Soviet-U.S. negotiations held in Washington.

Adamishin came to our country as a special envoy from the Soviet leadership to inform Cuban authorities on the results of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's recent visit to Washington.

The deputy foreign minister left our country today. Giraldo Mazola, vice foreign minister, and Luis Felipe Vazquez, section chief of the Foreign Relations Department of the PCC Central Committee, bid Adamishin farewell. (Vladimir Kisilov), adviser-minister of the USSR Embassy in Cuba, was also present.

Before leaving, Adamishin granted an interview to Cuban television.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Deputy Minister, as we understand it, you held extensive talks with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. We would like to know about the main points of the talks and your personal impressions of him.

[Adamishin speaking in Russian with simultaneous translation into Spanish] The talks dealt with matters discussed by the foreign ministers in Washington. These include security issues such as the signing of the agreement on the reduction of long-range nuclear missiles under the condition that the [words indistinct] agreement continues in effect. It deals with the ban on chemical weapons, nuclear testing, reduction of conventional weapons, and the limitation of naval fleet actions. Great attention was given to regional conflicts, such as Afghanistan, the war between Iran and Iraq, and the situation in Central America, the Far East, and South Africa. The identical position of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba was confirmed during the talks; namely, aspiration toward a political solution, with political methods, of these conflicts. It can be understood that special attention was given to the problems of South Africa.

I have a very strong impression of the meeting. It was a lesson for me. For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to meet with Comrade Fidel. Not only is he a person who is known throughout the world, but he is also a legendary figure. [end recording]

Tolstykh Meets Cuban Scientific Official

LD312210 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—Boris Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the USSR, today met with Rosa Elena Simeon Negrin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

They discussed the issues of further extending and deepening scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Cuba.

Political & Social

Further on Current Nagorno-Karabakh Situation

News 'Blackout' Imposed

AU010934 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, April 1 (AFP)—Soviet authorities on Friday imposed a total blackout on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, releasing no new information on the strife-torn region which has been in the grip of a nationalist strike since March 24.

The national press on Friday made no mention of the situation in Armenian-dominated Nagorno-Karabakh, a region which has been part of Azerbaijan since 1923 and which Armenians want returned to Armenia. Official newspapers from Armenia and the neighbouring southern republic of Azerbaijan did not reach the offices of Western correspondents in Moscow.

Telephone calls placed by AFP to the main town of Stepanakert were not connected. [passage omitted]

The Moscow newspaper SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIA on Friday carried an article by an Azerbaijani employee of the Soviet Oil Ministry, Akif Bagemsky, who had visited relatives in an Azerbaijani town with an Armenian minority at the end of February. He said that Azerbaijanis in the town of Kirovabad had taken in Armenian families who were "threatened by hooligans". [passage omitted]

Stepanakert Situation

AU011406 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, April 1 (AFP)—A strike by Armenian nationalists entered its ninth day Friday in Stepanakert, the main town in strife-torn Nagorno-Karabakh, a local newspaper editor reported.

"The situation is the same as it was yesterday," said the journalist on the daily SOVETSKY KARABAKH. Only essential services were available, he added.

The editor was reached by telephone from here after Soviet authorities imposed a total news blackout on Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been part of Azerbaijan since 1923 and which the nationalists want reincorporated into Armenia.

The Soviet national press on Friday made no mention of Nagorno-Karabakh. [passage omitted]

Regional Boundary Changes Procedures Outlined

LD010801 Moscow TASS in English 0742 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Any change in the status of Nagorno-Karabakh requires the consent of two constituent republics—Azerbaijan, of which that autonomous region is part, and Armenia, the issue of joining which has been raised in the region.

This legal point has been stressed in an interview with the Soviet weekly NEW TIMES by Dr. Boris Lazarev (law) who works at the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Institute of State and Law.

He called attention to the fact that the country's union republics, in this case Azerbaijan and Armenia, are sovereign Soviet states and are all covered by Article 78 of the Constitution of the USSR (the constitution of each republic includes a similar clause as well), which says:

"The territory of a union republic may not be altered without its consent."

Any altering of the boundaries of a republic requires a special decision of its supreme legislative authority, that is the Supreme Soviet, or its standing agency—the Presidium.

Accordingly, the desire of the second republic to incorporate any territory has to be expressed by its supreme legislative authority. And even if the two republics have reached an agreement, it has to be endorsed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Dr. Lazarev said.

He explained in this connection that according to Article 81 of the Constitution of the USSR, the USSR must protect the rights of the republics making it up.

The constitutional clause that the territory of a union republic may not be altered without its consent stems from the very treaty on the formation of the USSR.

Having formed the union, the republics have retained their sovereign rights, one of which is the right to the immutability of its territory. If a republic does not want its boundaries to be altered, it can be made agree [as received] to such alterations by neither any other republic nor the union as a whole, the legal expert said.

Politburo Session Examines Kolkhozes, Housing

PM011135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the headline "In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo"]

[Text] At the Central Committee Politburo session that took place on 31 March the results of the Fourth All-Union Congress of Collective Farmers were examined. It was noted that the congress became an important social

and political event in the life of the Soviet society and made a large contribution to drawing up the strategy of further developing the cooperative movement.

The congress showed that, supporting unanimously the CPSU's course toward restructuring, the peasants working on kolkhozes are stepping up their efforts to implement the USSR food program and have joined in the work radically reforming the activities of the country's agro-industrial complex, perfecting the economic managerial mechanism, and putting into practice an active social policy. Having summed up the first experience of restructuring in agriculture, the congress confirmed the need for a persistent struggle to uproot the survivals of administration by injunction and command methods in relation to kolkhozes.

The delegates paid great attention to the introduction of new managerial methods, complete financial autonomy, lease contracting, including family contracting, and cooperative principles everywhere, and to the importance of resolving the urgent problems of economic incentives and improving the social conditions of rural life. The material and documents of the congress are of fundamental importance for using the great possibilities of the cooperative movement in implementing restructuring, and asserting the basic Leninist principles of that movement. The draft USSR law on the cooperative movement in the USSR and the kolkhoz Model Charter that were approved by the congress put the cooperative sector of the economy on an equal footing with other spheres of the country's single national economic complex and contain legal bases for manifesting true democracy, and defending the rights and interests of kolkhoz workers.

The Central Committee Politburo lent its support to the efforts of rural toilers, which was voiced in speeches by delegates, to make more effective use of the already created economic potential so as to increase as rapidly as possible the production of food and agricultural raw materials. Planning and economic organs were given relevant instructions on the problems discussed at the congress. The Politburo approved the government's proposal on perfecting the management of the country's construction materials industry. For the purpose of increasing managerial effectiveness, strengthening economic methods of leadership, and also for expanding the independence of the union republics and local organs and enhancing their role and responsibility to resolve comprehensively the issues of developing territories, it was deemed necessary to transform the Union Republic USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry into an all-union ministry. The guidance of the republican construction materials industry is entrusted directly to the Councils of Ministers of the Union Republics.

The session considered the question of accelerating the development of cooperative housing construction. It was noted during the course of discussion that expanding it to the utmost is of great significance for fulfilling the task laid down by the party to provide every Soviet family with a separate apartment or an individual home by the year 2000. Yet the situation which has arisen in the country regarding the development of housing cooperatives does not meet the increased requirements of the population. A decision of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, approved by the Politburo, has defined a broad complex of organizational, financial and economic and social and legal measures, to perfect cooperative principles and forms for satisfying the population's requirements in housing. Alongside the further development of housing construction cooperatives, it is proposed to introduce a new form of cooperative: Housing cooperatives of citizens organized on voluntary principles for acquisition by purchase apartments built by enterprises and local bodies, and for their subsequent maintenance. It is envisaged to raise the economic interest of enterprises, construction organizations and local bodies in building cooperative housing and to establish privileged conditions for giving credit to these cooperatives.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo approved measures elaborated by the USSR Council of Ministers to develop the social sphere in Moscow Oblast in the years 1988-1995. With the aim of improving the living conditions of the oblast's population, which with Moscow makes up a single national economic complex, it is envisaged to substantially accelerate rates of housing, communal, cultural and amenities construction; and to remove the disproportions which have arisen in the development of the production and social infrastructure it is proposed to increase the putting into use of blocks of apartments in the 13th 5-Year Plan period, compared with the 12th, 1.4 times. The scale of construction of children's establishments, polyclinics, hospitals, clubs and other social and cultural establishments will also be expanded.

After approving provisions relating to the political organs in the system of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Politburo mapped out measures connected with the creation of a unified organizational structure for these organs and the further improvement of their work. It was stressed that the implementation of the measures in question will help to strengthen the party's political influence on the work of the Internal Affairs organs, with the aim of reinforcing socialist legality and law and order and affording greater protection of the rights and legitimate interests of citizens.

The session heard a report on the meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Alessandro Natta, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party. Satisfaction was expressed with the fruitful progress of the dialogue of the two parties and the deepening and enrichment of its content. The CPSU considers it important to continue to develop relations with Communist Parties of Europe and also with all of its left-wing forces,

so as to impart a new impetus to the general European dialogue in the name of peace, security and mutually beneficial cooperation in the framework of the whole continent.

Comrade Shevardnadze presented information on his conversations with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his talks with Secretary of State Shultz in Washington 21-23 March. The contacts which took place with the U.S. leadership were an important stage in the development of the ongoing political dialogue between the two countries on key problems of international security, on issues concerning the settlement of acute regional conflicts and on problems of humanitarian cooperation and bilateral relations. At the center of the matters being discussed is the preparation of a treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive armaments with observance of the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972.

The session reaffirmed the firm intention of the Soviet side to continue to work intensively in favor of the earliest possible drawing up of a range of documents on strategic offensive armaments and ABM so that they may, if possible, be ready for signing during the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting on 29 May-2 June of this year. Needless to say, if this is to be achieved, the U.S. side must do likewise.

It was noted that during the talks in Washington, the U.S. side had, in effect, departed from its previously expressed willingness to take part in a political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan on the basis of the Geneva agreements. This was taken into account in examining our various possible future courses of action in this matter.

The Politburo discussed the outcome of the latest session of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states which was held in Sofia. It approved the accords reached on further efforts by the allied states aimed at stopping the arms race and preventing its spread into space, and at making the disarmament process which has begun irreversible and progressive, as well as deepening positive trends in the development of the international situation.

Approval was given to the results of the talks of Comrades Slyunkov, Maslyukov and Kamentsev with Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau and Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee secretary, who was in the Soviet Union on a working visit. Measures were planned for further improving the effectiveness of Soviet-Vietnamese eocnomic cooperation.

The session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo also examined certain other matters concerning the implementation of the economic and social policy mapped out by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Zaykov Addresses 12 Mar Moscow Gorkom Plenum

PM310927 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 88 p 1-3

[Unattributed account of "speech by L.N. Zaykov," Politburo member, CPSU Central Committee secretary, and Moscow CPSU Gorkom first secretary, at the 12 March Moscow Gorkom plenum, under general heading "The Ideology of Renewal—In the Practice of Restructuring. Moscow CPSU Gorkom Plenum"]

[Text] Esteemed comrades!

The party gorkom plenum is discussing tasks of fundamental importance. They stem directly from the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum decisions, which gave a powerful impetus to the galvanization of our society's intellectual life by elevating the tasks of the radical improvement of the entire system of education and instruction at the present decisive stage of restructuring to the level of nationwide priorities.

The plenum documents and the speeches by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev substantiate key questions of the ideology of renewal. This is a creative continuation of the revolutionary transformations which began in April 1985, of the course of the 27th CPSU Congress and of the Central Committee January and June Plenums.

Having convincingly confirmed the consistency of the party line and loyalty to the abiding values of socialism, the Central Committee plenum emphasized anew that Soviet man is the protagonist of restructuring. Decisive importance attaches to his political and moral qualities, his level of culture and education, his patriotic and international conviction, his professional skills and sense of duty.

Today, when the concept of restructuring is being embodied in specific deeds, when the masses are having an increasingly weighty say in resolving tasks on both state and local scale, and when the elimination of stereotypes which have a braking effect has acquired the nature of a nationwide struggle, no one can stand aside, maintain a parasitical silence, or shirk responsibility for their allotted task.

Today's constructive and keen discussion of the gorkom's tasks for fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee plenum decisions testifies that Moscow's Communists are aware of their special responsibility for implementing the party's fundamental stipulations regarding the ideological backup for restructuring and the radical renewal of all elements of the educational system.

Summing up the results of the discussion, I would like to emphasize a fundamental fact. Whatever facet of restructuring we consider—be it the reform of public education, the improvement of the economic mechanism and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the further expansion of democratization and

glasnost, the implementation of active social policy, or the mastery of modern methods by the party leadership—they all shape people's consciousness and determine their line of behavior. This must be borne in mind during preparations for the 19th All-Union Party Conference.

Many comrades spoke sharply and frankly today about the most pressing problems of secondary and higher education in the capital. It is impossible not to agree with the view that education in Moscow is thoroughly neglected. Problems have been accumulating and proliferating for decades on end. A negative role was also played by the prevailing view of Moscow's education system as an example of advanced experience. This engendered complacency and created an impression that all was well.

But Muscovites cannot have failed to see the real product of "education" of this kind: There has been an increase in the number of semieducated people with VUZ diplomas or people who have completed their 10 years of schooling but are unprepared either for labor or for defense and who, furthermore, possess distorted moral principles. Only an insignificant proportion of graduates from the 10th grade go to work in production or the services sphere. The city's needs for qualified specialists in a number of vocations are satisfied by only 50 percent. There is a particularly tangible shortage of engineers in robotics, electronics, and automated management and planning systems, physicians, and economists. Comrades have spoken of this today.

The negative consequences of the notorious residual approach toward the development of the public education system are well known—the 50,000 children waiting in line for kindergarten places, more than 400 school and vocational and technical school premises in need of urgent repair, the second shift in schools in several rayons, the backwardness of technical equipment in many VUZ's and technical colleges, the dilapidated hostels and other buildings for social, cultural, and consumer service purposes for both students and lecturers.

To repair the omissions and consolidate the material and technical base of Moscow's VUZ's alone, about R2.7 billion of capital investments will have to be assimilated by the end of the century.

Coordinated actions by the Moscow Gorispolkom, sectorial ministries, and the city's enterprises will be needed in order to perform this colossal volume of work.

Much can be done here by students themselves. Why should the Komsomol Gorkom not get down to organizing a permanent students' construction detachment and proclaim the reconstruction of public education facilities in Moscow a construction site for young people's shock labor? As a matter of fact, the construction work done by students at these projects should be not only romanticized but fully paid as well.

The party Central Committee plenum brought to the forefront the task of improving the quality of knowledge. Education must be freed from rigid schemes and the cobwebs of countless instructions, there must be active support for innovative teachers, and scope must be given to progressive teaching initiatives.

The party gorkom and raykoms, soviets, and education organs have been set the task of strengthening in schools the atmosphere of creativity and responsibility for the fate of restructuring. It is necessary, by using the accumulated experience, to actively expand the network of specialized schools and classes offering a thorough study of a variety of subjects and to recruit higher education lecturers and leading national economic specialists to work in them. Implementing cadres training primarily on the base of secondary education, it is necessary to give some thought to the retention of a number of schools which could offer vocational training for pupils who leave secondary education before graduation.

The crucial figure in the restructuring of the entire education system is the teacher. But for years on end the perception of his role was one-sided. The demands made of teachers kept increasing, while the help they received kept declining. The prestige of the teaching profession declined significantly, and the situation cannot be corrected by wage increases alone.

Is it fair that only two pedagogues should be awarded the honorary title of "People's Teacher" in Moscow, with more than 2 million persons working and studying within its public education system?

Is it right and proper that hitherto we have been unable to provide apartments for the 3,000 lecturers who urgently need them?

Is a correct approach toward the consolidation of party ranks within study institutions indicated by the fact that there were 25 percent fewer teachers admitted to the party last year than in the year before?

In other words, the new reinforcements of the party organization's ranks amounted to just...one Communist in every second school in Moscow.

Special mention must be made of the the role played by VUZ party committees in the restructuring of higher education. It is incumbent upon them to solve the problems of teaching and education with competence and businesslike efficiency.

A.S. Yeliseyev, rector of Moscow's N.E. Bauman Higher Technical School, was perfectly correct to draw urgent attention to this issue. In essence, it is necessary to take a fresh look at the entire content of party work among both lecturers and students.

This demand also applies fully to party organizations in schools, vocational and technical schools, and technical colleges.

We must display constant concern for the strengthening of these party links and must not let them stew in their own juices, as it were.

I think that our plenum resolution must be more specific in specifying actions aimed at restoring teachers' authority including measures for moral incentives to trailblazing [samobytnyy] pedagogues, must accurately map out ways for accelerated solution of housing questions so as to ensure in particular that teachers' housing is closer to schools, and must more clearly define the tasks concerning the enhancement of the skills of teaching cadres and, of course, the democratization of the life of teachers' collectives.

It has to be said firmly and unambiguously: All this is directly incumbent upon the party gorkom and raykoms and the ispolkoms.

In this context I would like to read to you a note handed to the [plenum] presidium by Professor V.N. Vinogradov, chairman of the City Council of Rectors: "You are aware of the serious situation in which the material and technical bases of most Moscow VUZ's find themselves. According to estimates by the City Planning Commission and the State Union Institute for VUZ Planning, it will take Moscow VUZ's 20-25 years to reach the all-union normatives for study areas and hostels! In these conditions, it seems totally impermissible to continue the expropriation (including by the Moscow Gorispolkom) of premises and land parcels from the city's VUZ's. For example, it was only after 2 years of litigation that the study block of the Geological Prospecting Institute was successfully prevented from being handed over to foreign trade organizations.

"Most recently, some 2-story temporary buildings to be used as architectural studios by the Vuchetich Combine were erected instead of sports facilities in the 'Dorogomilovo' student village and the Gubkin Institute's student village.

"It is evident that short-term goals are considered more important than long-term ones.

"The council of the city's VUZ rectors feels that such actions are in blatant contradiction to the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum resolution.

"The council asks the party gorkom to examine these and other facts of further deterioration of the conditions in which VUZ's work and to include in the current plenum's resolution a provision prohibiting similar actions by various union and Moscow organizations in the future."

We cannot but agree with this presentation of the issue.

A little later I will dwell on shortcomings in the style of the gorispolkom's work. For now, let me just mention that some ispolkom officials have developed a clearly unsuitable attitude toward the development of the base of science and higher education. How else could we explain the formal bureaucratic attitude toward the request by the USSR Academy of Sciences that better working conditions be provided for staffers of the USSR Academy of Sciences Russian Language Institute, a request that was met by offers of clearly unacceptable premises. Is it just a matter of sending a formal reply for the record without actually doing anything?

The creation of a system of continuous education now in progress, a system which is to apply to all elements of the educational and upbringing process, including skill improvement and the retraining of cadres, is an object of special concern for party committees and soviet and economic organs. It is necessary to more rapidly complete the establishment of the corresponding network of educational institutions, making the fullest possible use of the potential of Moscow's VUZ's, technical colleges, and vocational and technical schools.

And of course, comrades it is necessary to boost by all means the returns from VUZ science, whose potential in the capital is quite high, and for this purpose to improve the mechanism of collaboration between higher education and the economy's sectors and develop contractual relations between VUZ's and enterprises and associations.

In conformity with the February plenum decisions, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has formed a union-republic USSR State Committee for Public Education, having abolished the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, and the USSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education.

Proposals have been submitted to establish a Moscow Committee for Public Education with the rights of a republican ministry. The Central Committee and the government have approved the proposals for establishing this committee.

It will have jurisdiction over institutions within the systems of public education and vocational and technical education, secondary specialized education establishments, and a number of VUZ's not directly subordinate to the USSR State Committee for Public Education. It is planned to form the committee's apparatus on the basis of the present city main administrations for public education and vocational and technical education, and for it to take over the staffs of organs for managing VUZ's and secondary specialized education establishments from USSR and RSFSR sectorial ministries.

Rayon administrations of public education are also being created to provide leadership of preschool institutions, schools, vocational and technical schools, and technical colleges and to coordinate the work of other education establishments on the rayon's territory.

We are proceeding from the premise that this important step will make it possible to substantially raise the leadership standards of teaching and educating children and young people, to do away with the lack of departmental coordination, to obtain a much deeper understanding of the content of teaching establishments' work, and to competently resolve all emerging problems. This will ultimately help in overcoming many "slips" in planning and the training and retraining of cadres.

The CPSU Central Committee February Plenum made political recommendations and indicated the main avenues of the education system's work at the present stage. Our task now is to fully implement the plenum decisions. This can be done only if literally everyone were to get down to tackling the problems of education, concentrating in this key sector of renewal the efforts by the city's party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and soviet and economic organs.

This is how the party formulates the task. This is how we must act.

Comrades!

What is the essence of ideological work today? This was fully and exhaustively covered in the Central Committee plenum speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

First of all, the party itself must arm itself with genuinely scientific knowledge of the history of the revolution and the building of socialism, of our fundamental ideological values and the causes of deviations from them which have occurred, of the prehistory of restructuring and the ways to revive Lenin's principles of the development of society.

The Central Committee plenum made it incumbent upon all party committees to give particular attention to the need for a sharp turnabout by the aktiv and all Communists toward the ideological content of restructuring and the strengthening of the party's direct and reverse links with the masses and all strata of the population. Our aim is to ensure that restructuring becomes not only the deeply perceived party cause of every Communist but also the patriotic duty of every citizen.

This in turn presupposes that all participants in the great struggle for socioeconomic acceleration and for cleansing the moral atmosphere in the country must have a clear idea of the basic laws governing the radical economic reform and of the ways to deepen democratization and must be fully aware of their rights and their moral and economic benefits coupled with the measure of their responsibility for achieving actual results.

Thus, the most important function of ideological work is to directly couple the practice of restructuring with its theoretical basis as elaborated in the Central Committee's Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress, the new edition of the party program, the materials of Central Committee plenums, the report "October and Restructuring: The Revolution Continues," and a series of other party documents.

The efficiency of propaganda and agitation today must be judged by the extent to which social mentality is changing and mainly by man's specific contribution to implementing tasks set by the party.

The present stage of restructuring will be marked by tangible results and substantial changes for the better only provided that there is unbreakable unity between theory and practice, between words and deeds. Scholasticism, dogmatism, and disregard of ideological and moral aspects are fraught with great potential damage to our common interests, to our restructuring.

The transition to the new methods of economic management and the entry into force of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association) promote the further development of collectivism, the introduction of self-management, and the enhancement of cadres' responsibility. At the same time it is necessary to determinedly overcome the inertia of the braking process and to eliminate conventional thinking.

Economic accountability—a stricter and more rigid form of economic and social relations—necessitates adopting a new approach toward moral assessments and criteria. Real opportunities are being created to encourage those who are working creatively and with total dedication and to debunk those who wish to grab more without giving society anything in return.

It was reported by the press that the Central Committee Politburo discussed a few days ago questions pertaining to enterprises' activity following the entry into force of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association). It was noted that the very first steps of economic reform have galvanized the activity of many labor collectives.

The transfer to full economic accountability by 496 of Moscow's industrial enterprises producing 70 percent of the total volume of output promoted the overall successful fulfillment of plans for the first 2 months of the current year.

As a rule, these enterprises are better disciplined in fulfilling contract commitments and targets for manufacturing the most important types of articles. Their financial position is improving, prime costs of production are falling, profitability is rising.

We can see the first signs that the Law on the State Enterprise is providing a reliable protection against planning methods based on arbitrary edicts and gives labor collectives a real opportunity to justify their own position, to adhere firmly to them and to uphold their own and the state's interests when confronted by the sector's headquarters. All this is having a positive effect on working people's moods and reinforces their confidence in the correctness of the party's economic policy.

At the same time considerable numbers of workers and specialists are skeptical and believe (not without justification at times) that everything carries on as before: Plans are set from above without consideration for labor collectives' opinions, wage leveling is flourishing, consumers remain dependent on suppliers, and self-management at enterprises is fettered by numerous instructions from the ministries. But are these difficulties of the transition period inevitable?

No, a careful analysis shows that economic restructuring is being held up mainly by outright omissions by officials in central planning and economic organs, at the city and rayon level and indeed within enterprises themselves.

As a matter of fact, last year and the early period of this year have shown that the process of assimilating new methods of economic management is progressing painfully at the same Moscow enterprises under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of the Electrical Equipment Industry, of the Automotive Industry, and of the Textile Industry.

I have had opportunities to visit such enterprises and to analyze the situation together with leaders of the sectors and the labor collectives. The same points came up every time: The ministry adopted a formal approach toward the elaboration of state orders and failed to promptly show concern for retooling, the labor collective's council and the director's office did not tackle the introduction of economic accountability within the production unit and general economic instruction, the ministry and enterprise party committees and the party raykom failed to keep an eye on these issues, and the interests of workers and the state suffered as a result.

I want to re-emphasize the principled stance taken by the party Central Committee: We will not allow anyone to shift the responsibility for the administration's misdeeds onto the workers' shoulders or to discredit the economic reform.

Party gorkom departments, and primarily the Economic Department, party raykoms and enterprise party committees and party bureaus must painstakingly investigate every distortion of the principles of the new economic mechanism and violation of the Law on the State Enterprise.

Why is it, for example, that Kirovskiy and Sverdlovskiy party raykoms tolerate the fact that the volume of state orders at the "Borets" Plant under the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building and the "Tizpribor" Plant under the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems is in excess of 100 percent of the volume of manufactured output? When such an approach is adopted, the producer is virtually detached from the consumer while contract relations, just like before, remain secondary, fail to govern plan formulation, and do not stimulate the growth of output quality and labor productivity.

The city party and economic organs still fail to display the necessary persistence in implementing the stipulations of the Central Committee June (1987) Plenum on the creation of an integrated system of economic management.

Wholesale trade in the means of production is developing only slowly. The relatively small proportion that it accounts for still fails to exert a substantial influence on the balancing of output production plans with material and technical supplies. There are shortcomings in the credit, finance, and cash services for enterprises and organizations due to departmental approach toward the shaping of the new banking system.

The pace at which intraproduction economic accountability is being introduced can in no way be described as revolutionary. Only 30 percent of teams operate with elements of economic accountability and less than 10 percent use collective contracts.

The transition to self-financing is inadequately linked with the introduction of new wage rates and salary scales. Many enterprises, including those which have switched to the new conditions, are timid in their work to improve labor organization and norm-setting, cut back on surplus management links, and thus affect wages fund savings.

The transition to new wage rates and salary scales in places is achieved through automatic redistribution of resources from the material incentives fund to the wages fund. Consequently, what is being encouraged is, just like before, not the end results of labor but simply physical presence at work.

The CPSU Central Committee February Plenum very sharply raised the question of eradicating wage leveling approaches. The evaluation and remuneration of labor must be based on scientifically substantiated norms, on criteria tested in practice.

This is what Vladimir Ilich Lenin pointed out and, criticizing Trotskiy, stressed: "Shock work means preferential consumption. Without this shock work is nothing but a pipe dream, for we are materialists. Workers are also materialists; if you want shock work from them, you must give them bread, clothes, and meat."

This is a most important methodological tenet, revealing the Marxist-Leninist perception of social justice. Recently we have spent a lot of time going round and round this problem. There is, moreover, a lot of exaggerated and totally unnecessary talk, which only harms the cause, about some people's allegedly inordinately high earnings, automobiles, and other benefits.

The time has come to put an end to this discussion and act according to the principle: If you deserve it—enjoy it; if you have worked with total dedication for society's benefit—here is society's recognition in full. This is the practical embodiment of the fundamental principle of socialism.

The new conditions of labor remuneration are often taken to mean a mass reduction of wage rates, higher production norms without the corresponding substantiation, and institution of minimal salaries for all workers. This profanation of the new economic mechanism, boosted by the administration's decisionmaking behind closed doors, generates justified indignation among workers.

I will cite just one instance. Workers from one of the shops at the experimental plant of the Automation and Instrument Building Scientific Research Institute were forced to file a complaint against the enterprise's administration with the CPSU Central Committee.

The conflict flared up because workers' wage rates were "pruned" without even elementary explanation when the shop switched to economic accountability within the production unit. But when people asked for the meaning of this—if I might use the expression—"economic accountability" to be at least explained to them, the chief of the enterprise's Labor and Wages Department declared: "If you don't like it, you can always resign!"

The Cheremushkinskiy Party Raykom must give serious thought to ways to restructure the political education work at this and other enterprises in the rayon.

We all must pay closer attention to what working people are saying in Muscovites' letters, applications, and appeals to party and soviet organs. This is the barometer of restructuring and glasnost. People sincerely wish to help the cause, to accelerate and deepen transformations, and they hint at methods to unblock the choke points. And we will strictly take to task those who continue to treat petitioners as importunate complainants, who fail to take effective measures in response to working people's letters, who use sophisticated bureaucratic devices to "get rid of" them, and stick up for narrow departmental interests.

Last year the party gorkom received 50,000 letters. In most of them, people who are really concerned for the cause indicate specific instances of both advanced experience and shortcomings.

As you know, comrades, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium issued a decree changing the attitude toward anonymous letters—they will not be looked at. Of course, this boosts even further our responsibility for a direct dialogue with people, for unconditional fulfillment of promises, for ruling out all forms of persecution for criticism.

Workers in the "Mospribor" Plant (Proletarskiy Rayon) were perfectly correct when they did not simply complain to the party gorkom about the arbitrariness of their director, who had made a willful decision encroaching upon working people's interests, but also emphasized the main point: "We are convinced that, without glasnost and democracy, people cannot be actively involved in the process of restructuring and the implementation of economic reform."

The cadres' poor knowledge of elementary economics complicates the work of enterprises in conditions of economic accountability and self-financing. Economic leaders often commit elementary errors in calculations at team, shift, or shop level or in the formation and consumption of funds for production and social development and material incentives.

There is still no efficient system for production and economic instruction of working people. Ministries and departments are slow to join in this work.

Some enterprise leaders have limited themselves to just issuing orders without getting down to strengthening the teaching-material base or to objective work with propagandists and lecturers. Just like before, many economics schools and seminars operate in detachment from the labor collective's production life. The task of party committees is to effectively influence the quality and content of general economic instruction and to enhance to the utmost the responsibility borne by economic leaders for this work.

We all are learning the art of restructuring and are aiming for the main element of restructuring—democratic management methods. But the lessons in democratization are unfortunately being learned in different ways. With each passing day, a growing number of leaders find forms to involve people in production management in keeping with the spirit of the time, skillfully rely on the working people's opinions and advice, and firmly reject administrative pressure.

There is a growing number of people who act boldly and intelligently in a truly state-minded way when resolving questions of planning and the development of production and the social sphere at their enterprises. People are literally squaring their shoulders and they feel themselves to be masters of their country, city, plant, and shop.

But there are still quite a few people who see democratization as a threat to their personal ambitions, who do everything they can to apply the brakes on the development of self-management, and who pressure their subordinates who dare to use their right to speak out. To put it briefly, democracy demands of us wisdom and persistence, consideration and determination.

Look at the difficulties that labor collective councils are encountering as they begin their existence. Some 2,800 such councils have been elected in Moscow, with workers accounting for 55 percent of their membership. But many enterprises lack total clarity about the specific ways in which labor collective councils can exercise the rights and obligations vested in them by the Law. These councils played an inadequate role in elaborating 1988 plans.

There are still all sorts of attempts to emasculate the essence of the cause. Enterprise directors who, contrary to all logic, head about one-half of these councils, transform them into ordinary consultative organs under the economic leader. This cannot be tolerated.

It must be bluntly said that Moscow's trade unions have still not found their place in the vast work of developing democratization in production. Even the structure of their organizations is no longer in line with the changes in the national economic management. The City Trade Union Council must submit its proposals for the new sectorial structure of trade union organs.

The paramount duty of trade unions—to protect the working people's rights and interests—acquires especially topical importance in transition to new methods of economic management and the introduction of self-management, and it must be given new meaning. When trade union officials forget their chief mission, have inadequate knowledge of the Law on the State Enterprise, adopt ostrich-like attitudes, and lose their class lodestars, this may lead to conflicts like the one that occurred at the end of last year at the Likhachev Automobile Plant.

The point at issue concerned the number of working Saturdays in the conditions of continuous production, and nobody apart from the association's general director managed to give worried people a sensible explanation that the work schedule suggested by the administration combined the interests of both the enterprise and the workers.

To prevent wage leveling and any encroachment upon the material interests of honest workers, to actively participate in enterprises' financial activity and the distribution of incentives and social development funds—these are just a few of the tasks that trade union committees and organizations are called upon to resolve.

Take another burning issue, like the collaboration between trade union committees and labor collective councils. On the one hand, trade unions must under no circumstances supplant these organs of self-management, while on the other hand they must not allow them to turn permanently into something like the standing production conferences which did not enjoy a very good reputation and must offer them comprehensive protection from the consequences of administrative nagging by economic leaders.

It is necessary to press ahead with sorting out the organization of socialist competition in a new fashion. Frankly speaking, most of us are allergic to rubber-stamp pledges which offered no glasnost, no comparability of results, no opportunity to emulate advanced experience, no genuine competition.

The City Trade Union Council must be bolder in supporting initiatives which emerge daily at local level, encouraging innovators, and eradicating unsystematic campaigns and any manifestations of bureaucratism, sycophancy, or callousness in the activity of trade union organs. It is time to plow up, as it were, the virgin soil of trade union work in consumer services, trade, and public catering, in other words wherever people's vital interests are affected on a daily basis.

The entire gamut of complex questions of economic restructuring and democratization in production was carefully examined during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to the No 1 State Bearings Plant a few days ago. (This was reported by the press, and Comrade V.B. Nosov who spoke today shared his own impressions.)

All the pluses and minuses, all the light and dark areas, all the positive and negative aspects are clearly visible at this enterprise. Everything that restructuring lays bare. There one can clearly perceive the desire of the collective and its leaders to keep pace with scientific and technical progress, to boldly demolish stereotypes in thinking and acting, and to create all the necessary conditions for highly productive labor by the workers, for their daily life and leisure. This is on the one hand.

On the other hand, the collective of the No 1 State Bearings Plant is, just like before, obstructed by ministerial instructions which use bureaucratic trammels to fetter initiative. These include the inordinately high volumes of state orders, the lack of necessary reserves of production capacities and material resources, the difficulties in applying earned funds to the development of the social, cultural, and consumer services sphere, and the acute shortage of housing.

The Moscow Gorispolkom, jointly with the Ministry of the Automotive Industry, must thoroughly investigate the entire range of questions raised at the meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich and the enterprise's workforce and must take the necessary measures.

One of the conclusions drawn at the plant is that it is incumbent upon the party gorkom's sectorial departments and the CPSU raykoms to work more objectively with the ministries and the central planning and economic departments, utilizing the entire arsenal of party influence on the management organs apparatus.

Questions concerning the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and its priority avenues demand much more attention and influence by party committees, militant energy, and profound competence.

The 12th 5-Year Plan is perfectly aptly described as the 5-year plan period of machine building. Meanwhile, the fulfillment of the program for modernizing Soviet machine building, including machine building in Moscow, is progressing with difficulties and fails to meet the set targets in many respects. Our major shortfalls are acutely felt also in implementing tasks concerning savings of resources and reducing the energy- and metal-intensiveness of articles.

It would seem appropriate for an all-city conference of the machine building sectors' party and economic aktiv to examine the progress of the fulfillment of resolutions adopted by the party and the government along these avenues of economic restructuring. This conference could be held in the immediate future. It is also necessary to bear in mind the experience of the extremely useful city conference on questions concerning the transition to new methods of economic management which was held last November.

The CPSU Central Committee February Plenum examined the problems of satisfying Soviet people's urgent needs as part and parcel of implementing the radical economic reform and the further democratization of social life. It was emphasized that people's moral health and awareness, their mood, their attitude toward the work entrusted to them, and their activeness in restructuring depend largely on the scale, time schedules, and quality of housing construction, food supplies, and mass consumer goods production.

To put it briefly, the consistent and fruitful implementation of a really strong social policy is a most important ideological, educational, and organizational task. It is from this viewpoint that we must constantly view the state of affairs in Moscow's social sphere.

Nothing here is, or could be considered, trivial. Empty store shelves or overcrowded subway cars, slippery sidewalks or apartments not occupied on schedule, vegetables rotting at storage facilities or work schedules by consumer service enterprises which are inconvenient for Muscovites—all these have a direct effect on the daily moral atmosphere in the city and demand effective response by party committees, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and people's control organs. This is the main field in which to apply the efforts, powers, and responsibility of soviets of people's deputies.

In conformity with party directives, additional measures have been adopted to expand the manufacture and range and improve the quality of consumer goods. But the situation in the capital's consumer goods market remains tense. The unsatisfied demand by Moscow's population for nonfood goods is estimated at almost R4 billion.

This proves that so far restructuring has only skimmed along the surface at enterprises to which the production of goods for the people has been assigned. More than 100 plants have altogether failed to assimilate this type of production, while its output at 90 machine building enterprises represents less than 6 percent of the total volume of output. Many associations, especially those within Group "A," continue to treat the manufacture of consumer goods as bothersome burden, as something secondary, while the gorkom's sectorial departments, the CPSU raykoms, and the party organizations fail to make a principled assessment and do not strive for any change for the better.

Moscow's industry can and must fully satisfy the market, otherwise wages would be for nothing and the ruble would lose its purchasing power. This would affect every family's and every person's prosperity. Moscow cannot live on goods brought in from outside. This is the key to the entire economic policy.

Intense work has to be done to fulfill the recently adopted CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution on measures for the retooling of light industry in 1988-1995. We recently discussed these tasks in detail. We determined the projects, schedules, capital investment volumes, and methods of party influence concerning the renewal of this sector's enterprises in the capital. I only want to remind you that the address to workers in the country's textile and light industry and their partners adopted by Muscovites cannot remain a meaningless declaration. Once we have given our word, we must certainly keep it and must ensure that goods bearing the capital's trade mark enjoy the prestige they deserve.

About the food problem. The CPSU Central Committee and the government are displaying enormous concern to supply the capital with all necessary products. Muscovites are pleased with the traditional trade fairs, including the holiday fair and the March fair which was held with great success. Volumes are increasing and variety is improving in brand-name consumer cooperative stores.

But there are still many stagnation phenomena when it comes to the supply of foodstuffs for the city's population. Quality is poor, and breakdowns in trade generate justified complaints by Muscovites.

We need a quantum jump to improve supplies of potatoes, vegetable, and fruit for the capital's population. For this purpose, it is necessary to persistently develop direct links and the delivery of produce on the lines of the "field-to-store" model.

Special mention must be made of the material interest of people working at the [fruit and vegetable] depots. We can and must finally put an end to the recruitment of people from other enterprises, students, and school pupils to work for free at depots during the interseason period. If you need them—conclude a contract and remunerate their labor. The necessary documents have been adopted on these questions; what we need now are specific actions and strict monitoring. Industrial enterprises and science must be more closely involved in mechanizing fruit and vegetable depots and introducing economically expedient forms of organization and remuneration of labor.

There is an especially large reserve to be released through the proliferation of family and collective contracts within the Moscow City Main Administration for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry system. We already have the interesting experience of work by a "family" store in Leninskiy Rayon, which is supplied by the "Moskva" Agro-Industrial Combine. This actually bypasses the depots where, unfortunately, up to 20 percent of potatoes and vegetables are often wasted. Sellers working on a contract basis attract buyers thanks to the high quality of produce, modern service standards, and flexible prices. Another five vegetable stores will be transferred to collective and family contracts in the immediate future. But this is just a drop in the ocean, bearing in mind that there are about 1,700 stores trading in potatoes, vegetables, and fruit in the capital. The Moscow Agroprom and the Main Administration for Trade must be more persistent in seeking and introducing advanced forms of services for Muscovites, especially in preparation for the summer season.

One of the most acute problems in the city is providing housing. During the 11th 5-Year Plan period, Moscow shifted from second to fifth place among the RSFSR's leading economic centers in terms of this indicator. Considerable differences still remain in housing conditions. Some 27 percent of families do not have separate apartments.

The Moscow Gorispolkom is unjustifiably dragging its heels over the elaboration of the city's comprehensive housing program. It is planned to build at least 59,000 apartments in 1988. This is the first time that plans are based not on gross indicators in terms of square meters of housing commissioned, but on the actual number of certain types of apartments, taking the population's needs into account. There is an increase in the volume of comprehensive capital repairs to housing blocks involving the redesign of communal apartments into separate ones. (It must be borne in mind that this results in a 30-40 percent reduction of useful area.) There has been a 50 percent increase of capital investment funds for reconstructing the city center. As we can see, the tasks are far from simple. And they have to be solved in a new fashion.

But the switch to state acceptance of housing blocks and the enhanced demands of technological discipline and quality of construction work have revealed major shortcomings in the work by construction organizations. Only 30 percent of housing planned for the 1st quarter was commissioned during the 1st 2 months of the year. This situation is not to anybody's liking, facts involving the thwarting of targets for the construction of social, cultural, and consumer services projects must be publicized and the culprits must be strictly taken to task.

In order to fully resolve the housing problem, it is necessary to build about 50 million square meters of housing by the year 2000 and radically reconstruct the city center and a number of residential districts with 5-story housing blocks. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the former approaches toward the siting of new housing construction are no longer suitable, and there is need for extraordinary solutions which would not involve the withdrawal of agricultural land or green belt sections from their current use. The aim must be to ensure that Moscow does not spread beyond the ring road.

If we also add that we have to double the commissioning of subway lines, substantially increase the volume of work on reconstructing industrial enterprises, and renew the city's network of main services, it becomes obvious that it is necessary to build up to the utmost the capacity of construction and installation organizations.

Much must be done in the next 10 years, in preparation for Moscow's forthcoming 850th anniversary. In this context, it has been decided to set up in our city main contracting trusts under construction industry ministries. The potential of union republics and foreign firms will also be involved, and the own-resources method of construction must be actively developed. Nevertheless, Moscow's construction industry workers will still have to bear the main responsibility for fulfilling the plans.

In these conditions, we need a fundamentally new structure of construction industry management in Moscow, a structure sensibly combining centralization with the economic independence of the Moscow Gorispolkom's subdivisions and based on the provisions of the Law on the State Enterprise, we need a Moscow Construction Committee as a single territorial-sectorial coordination and management organ. Proposals on this question have been submitted to the government.

It would comprise the Moscow Gorispolkom's six main construction administrations, working drawings subdivisions of the Main Architecture and Planning Administration and a number of other organizations. This will make it possible to establish an uninterrupted technological cycle of construction work in the city, from planning through to commissioning projects and—this is the main point—to accelerate the development of the construction industry's base.

The creation of the Construction Committee will simplify the management structure, will make it possible to reduce the numerical strength of apparatus at all levels, will give an opportunity to better maneuver labor and material resources, and will assist the balanced development and coordination of collaboration between all who are involved in construction work in the city, including those building by the own-resources method.

It is understandable that the responsibility of the executive organs of soviet power in the city will rise sharply in these conditions. For the time being, however, the Moscow Gorispolkom's work is clearly lagging behind the changing economic mechanism and the processes of democratization.

The anticipated returns are not being produced by the measures being taken to boost the activeness of deputies, permanent commissions, and territorial groups. The population is still inadequately informed about the work of soviets and the development prospects of Moscow and its rayons.

The Moscow City Soviet leaders are short on efficiency in solving the main questions, the key questions, and also on collegial discussion of problems. Many specific proposals by rayons disappear without trace deep inside the apparatus. Consequently, some decisions by the gorispolkom show overtones of subjectivism and haste and do not take the rayons' specific features into account.

Work on decentralizing management, on enhancing rayispolkoms' role and the stepping up of their responsibility for the state of affairs in their rayons, has not yet been completed. Just like in the past, rayon leaders are forced to traverse the long and thorny path of multilevel coordination in order to solve the most basic questions. Matters have deteriorated to the point where a school director cannot buy a footstool without permission from the Moscow City Soviet.

The long overdue structural restructuring is now drawing to a close. The numerous options of the General Plan for Managing the City's National Economy were being elaborated, as a rule, to suit the current leadership cadres rather than the problems of the city as an integral national economic and social complex. This plan must be based on the principle of rational combination of territorial and sectorial management for eliminating duplication and parallelism in the work of gorispolkom services and expanding the powers of rayon-level links.

But the main thing that the Moscow Gorispolkom has to do is to ensure real independence for rayispolkoms and boost their responsibility for the socioeconomic development of their territories by giving them more financial independence, an opportunity to dispose of earned funds to meet the rayons' needs, and powers to solve cadres questions in services under dual jurisdiction. It is also necessary to extend the powers of deputies' territorial groups regarding the solution of many vitally important questions at the local level.

Each one of us encounters this type of question constantly, on a daily basis. The worst is that we have come to accept so many of them and consequently are at times unable to see the damage inflicted on the prestige of soviet organs and the capital's honor by sluggishness, nonperformance, and economic mismanagement in matters large or small.

Take for example the—to put it mildly—"malfunctions" of the Moscow City Road Administration and Housing Administration services, for which even the smallest snowfalls or thaw turns into a natural disaster. This year's winter was by no means harsh, but even so it caught unawares those who are entrusted with the task of ensuring that the city's life runs smoothly. In January alone, the number of street accidents on unswept sidewalks increased by almost 50 percent compared with last year. Matters deteriorated to such an extent that the party gorkom was forced to give instructions giving specific addresses where sidewalks ought to be de-iced or overhanging icicles taken care of, as if none of this could have been noticed by either building operation boards or rayispolkoms.

How does the capital welcome its visitors? Crowded railroad termini, nothing even resembling the traditional Moscow hospitality in hotels, dirty streets, and—if you'll forgive my bluntness—public toilets that are more difficult to get into than the GUM department store.

Today we must demand with utmost principledness of the Moscow City Soviet and the rayispolkoms that they apply all their efforts to restore the prestige of Moscow's name by imposing order in public transport and ensuring impeccable operations by the capital's services and the quality of its catering.

Special mention must be made of bread. From time immemorial the capital has been famed for its sayka, kalach, and baranka [varieties of bread products]. What must be done to ensure that both Muscovites and our guests today can get hold of fresh and tasty bread in all varieties?

Of course, it is not easy for the Bread Baking Industry Administration to feed a city of 9 million. Measures have been taken over the last few years to modernize bread plants, to introduce modern technological processes, and to automate production. This line will be pursued also in the future. But use must also be made of small capacity bakeries, which industry is now beginning to produce, as a reserve for improving the quality and expanding the variety of bread and confectionery products. They can be sited in every microrayon. This must be organized without any delay so that the first 100 such bakeries could start operating as early as in 1989, and that their

number could be raised to 300 by the end of the 5-year plan period. Family contracts here will be more effective than anywhere else. Let me emphasize this: Family contracts, not cooperatives.

These are just a few examples of specific steps to improve services for Muscovites which are completely and fully within the powers of rayon soviets. Yet, it is at rayon level that these matters of daily life are tackled unwillingly, without initiative. Only one-third of all rayons have more or less clear-cut plans to substantially improve the work by enterprises and organizations in trade, public catering, and consumer services so that Muscovites could experience real changes for the better as early as this summer. Party raykoms must draw conclusions from this and must examine in detail the work by those who are slow to turn face to face with people.

A question that is difficult to resolve but is exceptionally topical is the demarcation of functions between party, state, and economic organs. Comrades made quite a few businesslike proposals and conclusions on this issue in their speeches today. But many of them only drew urgent attention to the problems without offering any constructive approaches toward their solution. The party Gorkom Bureau and departments must mobilize the creative potential and political experience of the entire elected party aktiv so that Moscow's Communists could take interesting experience and substantiated suggestions to the all-union party conference.

The party committee plenums and Communists' meetings to discuss elected organs' reports on their work on the leadership of restructuring have become a most important stage in preparations for the conference. On the whole, these report back sessions were held in a spirit of frankness, self-criticism, and lofty exactingness. In places, however, one could notice the effect of stage management, adherence to old schemes, and treatment of the report back sessions as part of just another campaign. Nonetheless, and despite the flaws, the report back sessions within the city party organization stirred all its links and took the discussion beyond its conventional boundaries. Now, in the period of preparation for the all-union party conference, it is important not to dampen the enhanced activeness of Communists and to include every party member in the process of restructuring as direct participant and organizer.

The problem of the training, selection, and education of leadership cadres remains as acute as ever. The significant renewal that took place within the cadre corps in the last 2 years produced both positive and negative consequences. As you know, this was appropriately assessed at the gorkom's November plenum.

The task is to prevent unjustified cadre turnover and to firmly adhere to a line of combining lofty demandingness toward them with trust, support, and benevolence. But we will mercilessly expel from our ranks restructuring's hangers-on, regardless of the guise the may adopt.

The ideological and moral education of Communists and all working people is more vital now than ever before. The party's slogan of "More socialism!" requires innovative approaches to ideological and educational work. This means that we Communists must resolutely demolish the old, unsuitable stereotypes in this most important sphere of the gorkom's activity.

The party has exposed the roots of the problem. We are talking about serious shortcomings like the "wholesale [valovoy] approach" in the ideological sphere and the slowness with which we resolve many topical and pressing questions.

There is no need to offer from this rostrum any methodological instructions on improving propaganda and agitation. After all, we implement enough measures for this purpose, at times literally spelling out truisms.

But quite a few new and interesting forms of work within labor collectives and at the population's places of residence have also emerged: "Direct lines," political clubs, "roundtable discussions," and mobile groups of specialists explaining acute questions. Topical problems are widely covered by the city press and Moscow Television and Radio broadcasts. Today it can be said that the mass media are noticeably augmenting their work and the effectiveness of their published material. All this is to our credit. All this is in the service of restructuring.

But let us look at ideological work from the viewpoint of its returns, its fruitfulness. I will cite a few examples as food for thought, even though I would imagine that they are familiar to you.

How much has already been said and written about the importance of historical education. It would seem that everyone knows the meaning of this weighty term. In fact, however, things are a lot different.

Just recall the powerful and truly nationwide resonance of those sorry Poklonnaya Gora events. The architects' mistakes proved costly to the whole of Soviet society. But the topic of conversation has now changed. A new competition is under way, and the Victory Monument will certainly be erected.

But for the time being thousands of Muscovites and visitors to the capital, passing by the hill that suffered so much, see—just as they did a month and even a year ago—a "forest" of ferroconcrete structures with the arms of dozens of tower cranes frozen still above them. This is more than just economic mismanagement, especially in the conditions of economic accountability when every kopek has to be counted, let alone expensive equipment lying idle for years. This is a blatant example of senseless indifference toward the people's wealth, toward the image of Moscow, and toward historical education.

Incidentally, many shortcomings in the work of Moscow's construction industry workers—and this was quite cogently put today by V.Ye. Chebrikov, leaders of a plasterers' team from the "Mosotdelstroy" No 5 Trust—stem from lack of attention to the fundamental question of the economy's intensification, the question of raising labor productivity.

What construction industry workers are now holding out as the main indicator is in fact an indicator of output rather than of labor productivity. Such a substitution is especially intolerable now. It is further proof of the inadequate knowledge of the elements of economics by construction organization leaders.

Here is another example of the interweaving of ideological and economic problems. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA recently published an article about the state of Borodino, the field of Russian glory. The journalist, outlining the history of the restoration of the monuments to the heroes of the battle which determined Russia's fate, writes with perfectly understandable indignation that residents of the capital who nurture an enthusiasm for out-of-town dachas are now trying to "get on the register" at Borodino Field under the pretext of setting up market gardening cooperatives. Staffers from the Moscow City Main Water Supply and Sewage Administration are now waiting to be allocated plots. All the necessary permits for this purpose have been collected. If only all this energy had been applied to good deeds, which are in such short supply in the capital.

The gorispolkom is not making the proper efforts to impose order even along the street where the Moscow City Soviet building itself is situated. Yet Gorkiy Street is not only one of the capital's main thoroughfares but also a highway leading to the heart of the country, to Red Square.

For how much longer can we disgrace ourselves by using fences and ancient billboards to cover up the tattered facades of housing blocks that were vacated a long time ago, or erecting scaffolds where nobody works because apparently even detailed plans for reconstruction have not yet been drawn?

What other measures can be used to prompt people to get moving on the problem of creating pedestrian zones in Steleshnikovyy Pereulok, the Zamoskvorechye, along the Simonovskiy Monastery Embankment, and elsewhere? Quite a lot of time has passed since the urban development council session which adopted a decision on this matter. It is time to act, because the warm weather will soon be upon us and crowds or Muscovites and visitors to the capital will again throng the Arbat, the only pedestrian zone street.

Actual work on reconstructing Moscow's theaters and consolidating their material base is bogged down in the process of multilateral coordination. We are talking not only of properly maintaining the seats of culture in the conventional meaning of the word, but of actually creating conditions for a genuine revival of our national pride—the capital's theatrical and artistic life.

The consequences of economic mismanagement, inefficiency, idleness of thought, and Oblomov-like attitudes are seriously damaging all the work on cultivating patriotism and love for the native city.

Some 2 years ago, while repairing underground pipes along the Kuznetskiy Bridge, workers discovered remnants of ancient city constructions. And what happened? They installed a miserable little cover, fenced the spot off, and made themselves scarce. All who are responsible for the conservation of architectural monuments and for how people get around Moscow by foot or transport have also made themselves scarce.

These are the kind of instances of spiritual impoverishment, of indifference, that generate dissatisfaction and at times even justified indignation among Muscovites. A solicitous attitude toward the great historical and cultural legacy—this is the party's principled position and a vital source of patriotism and internationalism which increases the strength and energy of all the generations taking part in restructuring.

But we will never tolerate the attempts to pollute this fresh spring, being made by irresponsible extremists including certain leaders of pseudopatriotic groups who exploit the growing sociopolitical activeness of the masses to further their selfish goal. Such speculations with our values become possible wherever party and soviet organs are insufficiently active or no work is done by voluntary societies whose duty it is to tackle questions of preserving monuments of history and culture and the environment or the struggle for sobriety.

While rebuffing the provocateurs, demagogues, and blatherers, it is necessary that individual work with people be deepened still further. We are at times unjustifiably placated by the huge corps of propaganda workers, whose numbers run into hundreds of thousands. At seminars in the Political Enlightenment House their subjective opinion is at times perceived almost as the vox populi. But let us go no further than an examination of the "package" of questions asked at such seminars. Often a philistine interest in "predigested facts" is displayed, proving that many of our lecturers and agitators have simply not read the party documents and lack all knowledge of the elements of Marxist-Leninist teaching. The city's social scientists are much to blame for this. It is not the arithmetical quantity of books and monographs but the topicality of problems examined and recommendations made that must be used to evaluate the work of ideological institutions which clearly cannot keep up the pace of restructuring.

The ideological atmosphere in the city is affected to a certain extent by negative manifestations by some organizers of unofficial groups and self-motivated formations which in many cases are of a frankly provocative, nationalist, and antisocial nature.

As the 9 March conference in the CPSU Central Committee noted, not a single question of restructuring today can be solved without considering its effect on nationality relations. But many propagandists, lecturers, and workers in ideological departments and institutions are not ready for work in the new conditions and are incapable of thinking and acting independently, which means that they have no effect on restructuring the moral-political atmosphere within labor collectives and in the city as a whole.

It is even worse when, instead of taking an active assertive stance, some of our ideological cadres only grumble about current difficulties. What we need is an active struggle for a sober way of life rather than skeptical deliberations about the waiting lines for alcohol. The task is not to lament the emergence of drug addiction, but to wage a merciless struggle against negative phenomena, for highly civilized behavior and strict public order in Moscow.

We are entitled to demand more active and coordinated actions in this area of restructuring from party committees, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and law enforcement organs. Party raykoms face the task of making our propaganda work system as mobile as possible, dynamic, and capable of responding quickly to new requirements. The Moscow CPSU Gorkom Propaganda and Agitation Department must restructure the certification of ideological cadres by imposing tougher demands regarding political and moral qualities and regarding the competence of lecturers and propagandists.

To be aware of real public opinion and the genuine state of Muscovites' spiritual life, it is necessary to raise sociological studies to a qualitatively new level. Without reliable sociological information obtained on a strictly scientific basis it is impossible to correctly forecast the situation or to plan our actions aimed at resolving the city's acute social and economic problems.

This is particularly important today, when the development of the "Progress-95" program has begun and when the task has been set of ensuring a practical, comprehensive approach to solving territorial problems, of breaking down the persisting intersectorial barriers, and of focusing all efforts on the priority areas of work and on resolving the main task—the comprehensive intensification of the capital's economy.

The task of party raykoms, relying on the capital's scientific potential, is to take a leading role in organizing the elaboration of sections from the "Progress-95" Program for every enterprise and for the rayon as a whole. It is important that all work must acquire a broadly democratic nature and awaken labor collectives' interest in elaborating and implementing measures which will enable us to take another decisive step in the cause of restructuring.

The "Progress-95" program must provide the basis for drawing up plans for the city's development in the 13th 5-Year Plan period and especially the technical and economic substantiation of the General Plan for the Development of the Capital and Moscow Oblast Through the Year 2010.

The future is being born today. Our strategic plans must be conceived so that residents may sense specific changes in the city's life in the immediate future.

The restructuring of all spheres of our social life is closely connected with the restructuring of international relations. This has a direct effect on Moscow, which has many diverse foreign ties.

Our friends, guests, and partners judge the progress of restructuring in the Soviet Union as a whole by the impression made by the capital. This imposes additional responsibilities on Muscovites.

I would also like to emphasize that, in the interests of restructuring and acceleration, we could make much fuller and more effective use of the considerable reserve represented by the experience of our friends, and primarily the socialist countries. This experience contains much that is instructive in implementing economic reforms and full economic accountability, organizing cooperatives and individual labor activity, and work with the population, young people, labor collectives, and in places of residence.

To put it briefly, full use must be made of the opportunities provided by international ties.

Every day presents us with new problems. Their solution depends directly on our ability to control processes occurring in the city which are at times unexpected and unfamiliar, to actively verify everything that is disputable or ambiguous, to accumulate positive experience.

The capital's working people have set high targets in socialist competition in honor of the opening of the 19th All-Union Party Conference. Some 75,000 workers and over 2,000 teams have pledged to meet the targets for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan and more by that date. The task facing the gorkom departments, the party raykoms, and all links of the city party organization as they approach this very important event in the life of the party and the country is to profoundly consider the new phenomena in social life, comprehensively support the patriotic initiative of Muscovites, and ensure considerable and weighty practical results in all areas of restructuring.

The rule for everybody must be: Less talk and more practical deeds. Therein lies the meaning, the basic content of our restructuring.

Economic

'Restrained Optimism' at Gosstroy Session

PM311103 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 1

[M. Krushinskiy "Economic Review": "Comparing Figures"]

[Text] Restrained optimism—This is a possible description of the general assessment of affairs in the construction sector made at a USSR Gosstroy session at the end of last week. There was one item on the agenda: "Improving the economic mechanism in construction and organizing work under conditions of full economic accountability [khozyaystvenny raschet] and self-financing." This very formula also conveys optimism, albeit somewhat exaggerated.

For economic accountability (particularly when "full") means strictly correlating costs with results and living exclusively on money that has been earned. Of the two options envisaged by the Law on the State Enterprise, only the second one—based on normative distribution of income—can be considered truly economically accountable. However, the overwhelming majority of construction organizations are still working according to the first model. The keynote speaker—USSR Gosstroy First Deputy Chairman L. Bibin—pointed out that "more than 80 trusts and organizations on an equal footing with them are going over" to the second model, and his intonation indicated that this denoted some success. This may be so, if you bear in mind that almost half the trusts in the construction complex (46.1 percent) are still in the loss-making and barely profitable category. I will, however, remind you that there are, in all, 1,687 of them. Consequently, the declared agenda is rightfully applicable to just 4.7 percent of construction organizations.

I would not like to appear excessively captious, particularly as neither the keynote speaker nor the other speakers at the session could be accused of lacking a critical spirit. Yet I would like to see greater accuracy and realism even in trifles. Only by realizing what little progress we have made so far on the path of economic transformations can we shift the remaining mass of work.

During the first 2 years of the 5-year plan labor productivity in the sector, the volume of construction and installation work, and the commissioning of apartment blocks and other projects increased appreciably faster than in 1981-1985 (the average annual rate of increase for housing, for example, stood at 6.7 percent against 1.7 percent). The mass transfer of contruction trusts to the collective contract is an important source of what has been achieved. Today this form of labor organization is one of the most democratic, and its cost-cutting thrust is confirmed by experience. It is gratifying that it is already being used in 97 percent of all trusts. But you cannot help wondering: Do we not get too carried away with the idea of "blanket coverage"? Does it not sometimes become an empty formality?

This concern was also aired at the Gosstroy session. It was pointed out that the collective contract is frequently "introduced" without proper organizational and economic preparation, in a number of instances team, section, and subdivision councils do not fulfill their functions, and there is wage leveling. As we see, even qualitative changes can be ruined by approaching them with a formal quantitative yardstick.

Certain trends are alarming when you compare the figures for last year and the first 2 years of the present 5-year plan. The level of uncompleted construction, for example, increased. The extended nature of the work front, the dissipation of labor, financial, and material resources, and the resulting construction schedule overruns have been our scourge for decades. Is there any salvation from this? The sector's leaders have advanced the idea of taking an inventory of all construction sites. In the course of this work it is possible to examine how the technical standard of projects meets modern requirements and determines the possibilities of completing what has been started. After this, ministries and departments are recommended to prepare proposals for mothballing certain projects under construction.

This is, on the one hand, a just measure. But, you will agree, "freezing" a construction site is not, strictly speaking, the way out. For it is necessary to accelerate the housing program, combat bad roads... What is to be done, if we do not cope with everything at once, and there is a shortage of ready resources? One way to resolve the problem is to develop extensively the cooperative movement in the sector. In his report L. Bibin mentioned with satisfaction the "first swallows"—strong cooperative organizations fulfilling state orders: Karelia's "Stroitel" and Novgorod's "Volkhov" (IZVESTIYA wrote of them in issue No 48 for this year). I believe that their experience, albeit not yet very rich, must be disseminated and propagandized. This thought is also prompted by the draft Law on Cooperatives in the USSR, which has been published for nationwide discussion.

It is a similar matter with material resources. Our country holds the leading place in the world in terms of production of basic construction materials, and the shortage of them is a direct consequence of mismanagement and cost-based planning and labor organization methods. Cooperatives can also help out here in a certain sense. One of them, operating under the auspices of the "Sverdlovskstroymaterialy" Production Association, produces bricks on the basis of Nevyansk Brick Plant—this has been reported in the press. There are also other examples. Special note should be taken of an experiment

at Butovo Construction Materials Combine in Moscow Oblast: Its collective has leased its enterprise's fixed capital from the state, thereby initiating the lease contract in industry (for more details see IZVESTIYA No 57, 1988). This is a direct answer to the question of how to overcome the loss-making performance and low profitability of organizations which are dragging the entire sector back.

Shiftwork Offsets Leningrad Job Cuts

LD311437 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 31 Mar 88

[Text] Leningrad March 31 TASS—By TASS correspondent Sergey Davydov:

The reduction of the stock of machine tools has meant 8,000 fewer jobs in the industry in Leningrad. However, this fact is regarded as positive given the shortage of workers and the need to use equipment in several shifts.

Nowadays, machine tools are in operation fourteen hours a day, which is a high figure for the Soviet economy which was run on a one-shift basis only two-three years ago.

The former economic mechanism laid emphasis on extending production facilities by enterprises. The latter did not feel any shortage of finances when they wanted to purchase new equipment. Expenditures were paid for from the state budget. Surplus jobs made it easier for an enterprise to meet its plan targets, but made production less profitable. In Leningrad, with a population of five million, industry used to received 25,000-30,000 new machine tools every year.

Under the economic reform in the Soviet Union, the purchase of equipment is funded by an enterprise. Profits, left after settling accounts with the state and suppliers, are left at the disposal of the work collective. The latter is free to decide how much to use to develop production, to provide material incentives to workers and meet social needs.

Making the industry operate on a two-shift basis is one of the ways to provide employment for workers laid off in the drive for economic restructuring. Others include retraining schemes funded by an enterprise and the state and new jobs in consumer services and construction.

Abalkin Comments on Restructuring 'Campaign'

LD271039 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1310 GMT on 26 March carries a 105-minute broadcast from the Ostankino Concert Hall with Academician L.I. Abalkin, director of the Economics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, during which he answers questions from members of the audience. The program also includes a brief television link-up with Riga to discuss problems at the RAF works there and reportage on bureaucratic hampering of an individual labor collective in Moscow.

Abalkin begins by stating that restructuring is not just a campaign, but a long-term program for renewing Soviet society. Phase one—a time for developing and assimilating the new approaches—has ended, and the phase of practical application has now begun. He stresses that the administrative style of economic management is to become a thing of the past: "The administrative system has no future to it, no new achievements; it will not produce more socialism, but less."

A member of the audience asks to what extent the experience of the socialist countries is taken into consideration in devising the restructuring. Abalkin replies: "In carrying out the reform and in devising the overall concept—both in the past at at present—the experience of other countries was given very close and detailed study. I mean all of the very varied experience of both the European socialist countries—which is quite varied and interesting—and China's experience of reform. A great deal has been taken into account, and not only during the previous stage but now in working out various elements as well."

Abalkin is then asked for his view of the reforms of the 1960's. He replies that different people interpret them in different ways, but the fact remains that the 1966-70 5-year period produced better economic growth results than any other period in the last 30 years or more. The main question now is why the improvements were short-lived: "One of the reasons was the uncomprehensive approach. At that time, unlike today, we envisaged the economic reform as a localized economic transformation. We wanted to radically restructure the economy without going beyond changes in the economic sphere—without affecting the political sphere, social relations, or spiritual and ideological life. It's now clear that for this reason the reform was doomed to fail sooner or later. Only a package of transformations in all spheres of life is capable of making cardinal and fundamental changes to the economy. Another factor was the inability to ensure unity of word and deed, to see things through to the end, to go more than just half-way, to stop ourselves from being led astray and to stop the process being taken over by people who had no interest in it." "This is a lesson, a lesson that must be remembered today."

A member of the audience asks if the economic reform will do anything to get rid of shortages. Abalkin answers: "Shortages are, of course, the scourge of our society. But more than just that: Where there are shortages there is little socialism, if there is any socialism at all where shortages exist." Socialism was conceived as a planned and balanced economic system in which shortages should not arise. The restructuring will improve matters, not only by introducing financial autonomy etc, but by

reforming the planning system itself. In particular, one of the decisions adopted prohibits Gosplan from drawing up an unbalanced state plan.

Following a television link-up with Riga to discuss the problems experienced with the state order system in the RAF motor vehicle works, a journalist in the studio asks whether the reform, by leaving so much power in the hands of the bureaucracy, will not go the same way as the 1965 reform. Abalkin replies: "The course of the restructuring always, of course, gives rise to doubts about its success, about whether this time we shall succeed in not repeating what happened in the 1960's and before that on more than one occasion. It is inevitable that one will constantly look back to the experience of past reforms and make comparisons with it, particularly since certain practical acts give rise to such questions. This applies, above all, of course, to what has been done with the state orders. Naturally, in the form in which it has been applied and finalized for 1988, the state order does not represent any progress at all. It is not only not a step forward—perhaps it is not a step backward either because...it's not worse than what we had; it's hard to imagine a worse system of socialist economic management—but something else besides.

"The thing is that such a form has very serious social repercussions. It creates mistrust in the restructuring. It creates the view that words and slogans have changed while everything else remains the same: The nomenclature used to determine every enterprise's affairs from the center; this has now been abolished, but they've called it state order and will carry on just as before. To discredit the idea in the public consciousness is an exceptionally dangerous thing, and perhaps even more dangerous, in its repercussions, than ill-conceived economic decisions.

"The whole question is whether this is contained in the concept of restructuring itself, whether it is commensurate with its nature, or whether it is a digression from the principles proclaimed in the restructuring process, including the specific principles last year's CPSU Central Committee June Plenum."

Abalkin goes on to complain that the legal requirement for state order to be placed on a competitive basis has not been fulfilled. Both this and the abuse of the state order system, he continues, represent a departure from the principles of the restructuring. It is not enough merely to adopt legislation; one must fight for the restructuring. Albalkin continues: "Somebody once asked who we are to fight against if we are all on the same side of the barricades? Yes, we are all on the same side in the sense that we all want socialist society to be better. But we understand this in different ways; we have different views on what there should be more of and what there should be less of. This process of struggling will continue and will not ease up throughout the entire process, acquiring new forms and features each time. It must be said that an analysis of what has happened with the state orders has revealed a more complex picture than we and the journalists are used to imagining. The opposition which we are having to combat is coming not only from above, from the central administration bodies, but from below as well. We have discovered that demands for an increase in state orders often come from below, from the enterprises. It is they who are demanding an increase in state orders, rather than having them imposed. Both processes are occurring, and that's the picture they have created. It's understandable why this is happening."

Abalkin then reads out some of the written questions which have been handed to him, including the following: "Can the economic system during the period of stagnation, during the Stalinism and Brezhnevism periods, be called socialism? Does this not debase the very idea of socialism as the most progressive economic system?" His answer is that "none of these things, these processes and phenomena, are socialism. You could hardly have expected any other answer. These phenomena are not only alien to socialism, nor is it just a case of too little socialism—there is no socialism in them at all. They are relations from another system which penetrated the pores of socialist society, deformed its economic, political, and social relations, caused society to stagnate and in some areas to regress." "When we talk about these phenomena of the past, there is no forgiveness for them, nor is there any justification. They are not things that we can take into the future with us."

In answer to a question about new text books for political economy, Abalkin states that "work is being done on a new political economy textbook for higher educational establishments, and if this work remains very intensive publication can be expected at the end of this calendar year."

He then moves on to the subject of unemployment in the USSR, addressing, in particular, the question of whether a 2-3 percent unemployment rate would be beneficial to the economy. He refutes this on the basis of experience in Kazakhstan, where there is a labor shortage in the north and a surplus in the south. The people in the south, however, do not work any harder, nor is labor productivity higher than in the north. Abalkin then quotes a Swedish social democrat on the woes of unemployment: "Even the least unemployment deforms the personality, causes disorder in social relations, and takes its toll on the nation's mental health."

A statistician in the audience asks why his discipline is not presented in the USSR Academy of Sciences, to which Abalkin replies: "I think statistics shared the fate of a whole range of branches of economic science. This was the result of numerous processes and long-term trends. We have analyzed this state of affairs—not only concerning statistics, but also a number of other branches of science—and found that whole branches of science, whole scientific schools, large research collectives and specialized organizations were lost. Can you imagine that the Soviet Union, with a population of 280

million and the most complex national composition, was the only developed country without an institute of demography? But that was the case for decades." "Only now has it been decided to set up a specialized institute for such problems, within the Academy of Sciences." This, and other branches of science will now be developed, says Abalkin, "But the main problem we are coming up against now is not the existence of departments and sectors but the absence of people—specialists, eminent specialist scientists. We are also experiencing the problem of too few staff in a number of branches of science and scientific programs. We have to start afresh with young people and create a new generation, whole schools, and train modern scientists and thinkers who will determine the future of our science."

Toward the end of the broadcast a report is shown about a cooperative for providing linguistic services which has been set up in Moscow, but which has still not been granted a license from the city authorities. Abalkin regrets that such difficulties are occuring, but confirms that problems will be ironed out as the cooperative movement unfolds. "Very often," he continues, "I am asked about the extremely low taxation imposed on cooperatives and why this has been done. It was done deliberately to enliven and develop that sphere. At present we are suffering not so much because of the high profitability of cooperatives or because they earn too much—although such phenomena do occur—but because the process is proceeding extremely slowly. People are going in for such activities unwillingly, guardedly, with great fear, bearing in mind all the various public opinions forming on this subject. We want to stimulate these activities, particularly during the initial years, by freeing them from taxation to help them develop."

Albalkin concludes by repeating that the restructuring is a long-term strategic policy, the thrid stage of which will begin with the 13th 5-Year Plan in 3 years.

New Development Bank Chief Outlines Objectives

PM251121 Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 11, 14-20 Mar 88 (Signed to Press 16 Mar 88) pp 4, 5

[G. Artemov interview with Candidate of Economic Sciences V.I. Bukato, chairman of the USSR Bank for Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development, in Moscow, published under the rubric "New Shoots": "The Bank for Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development;" date not given—first paragraph is NEDELYA introduction]

[Text] The services provided by this all-union bank became available from early 1988. Everything was being created from scratch, as it were: Staff structure, the Moscow headquarters at No 13 Dayevoy Pereulok, the local branches. V.I. Bukato, chairman of the USSR Bank for Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development, today replies to NEDELYA's questions.

[Artemov] Viktor Ivanovich, what indicators would you use to define the "state of health" of the newcomer to our banking system?

[Bukato] Strictly speaking, the Bank for Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development is not a completely new institution in our history. We have already had something similar in the 1925 model of the USSR Central Municipal Bank, which financed and provided credit for municipal services and housing construction. State organizations, cooperatives, and individuals could obtain both long-term and short-term loans at that time. But this is where the similarities end. The Central Municipal Bank was a joint stock corporation, its relations with local municipal banks were based on contracts, and it was authorized to issue debenture loan stock.

Ours is a state bank. The initial capital was provided from state funds, and it is to be built up from profits earned from interest charges for credit facilities. We already have more than 300 local branches, and many more are in the process of being set up in cities and rayons with populations in excess of 50,000. Our clients are all the union and republic ministries and departments in the nonproduction sphere and their subordinate enterprises and institutions; public, creative, and cooperative organizations and unions, local soviets, citizens engaged in individual labor activity.... As for our "state of health," our criterion is to provide uninterrupted credit and cash services, and we are correspondingly in a situation where we have organized customer accounts.

[Artemov] What is the meaning of "new-style economic management" for your bank?

[Bukato] We are seeking qualitatively new, nonstandard, and advanced forms of credit policy. It is necessary to move away from the accepted monitoring functions in partnership relations. For example, to participate in the provision of financial backing for major targeted programs, to reveal reserves jointly with clients, to submit proposals for their utilization, and to develop new spheres of cooperation on the basis of economic accountability. Personally I am an active advocate of a differentiated credit system whereby properly operating enterprises are charged interest by the bank at preferential rates (a 50-percent reduction), while those which operate poorly are charged higher (a 50-percent increase) interest rates.

[Artemov] Which of your clients enjoy preferential loan entitlement?

[Bukato] Without singling out anyone, I would emphasize: We will give as much help as we can primarily to those who ensure fulfillment of national economic targets and solve long-term social questions. The cooperative movement must be consolidated and developed, and it must be granted credit facilities on more advantageous

terms. It is necessary to encourage the production of consumer goods and the provision of services through individual labor activity. By the way, our clients include almost 14,000 cooperatives registered all over the country and around 400,000 persons engaged in individual labor activity.

[Artemov] Is it difficult for them to obtain credit?

[Bukato] Not at all difficult: The procedure for granting credit facilities has been simplified to the utmost. For example, individual borrowers receive their loans in cash provided they have a registration certificate (or a local authority license) and have filed with the bank a declaration requesting the loan and undertaking to repay it within a given period of time.

[Artemov] How much money do you lend, and on what terms?

[Bukato] Cooperatives can receive from our local branches short-term credit facilities to enable them to begin their activity for up to 1 year at 1 percent interest. We lend cooperatives up to R5,000 for repairs to premises for up to 6 months. If they wish to acquire small machines or expand their fixed capital, cooperative members can obtain loans for up to 2 years, for which they are charges 0.75 percent interest.

And now about individual labor activity. We are authorized to give "individualists" loans to acquire raw material, other materials, and instruments or to pay the charges on leased or hired instruments and other property. We give them up to R2,000 per year, and charge them 3 percent interest. Loans can also be given to enable citizens to acquire other property, up to a total of R3,000 for a maximum of 3 years at 2 percent interest. As a matter of fact, the amount of the credit facility can be increased by 50 percent whenever this might be economically expedient. To put it briefly, an "individualist" can obtain credit facilities of up to R7,500 from our bank.

[Artemov] Viktor Ivanovich, how long have you worked in banking?

[Bukato] For 32 years.

[Artemov] In all likelihood, you have some ideas about the ways to further improve the cooperative system, to which the recently published draft USSR law is devoted?

[Bukato] It seems to me that it would be worthwhile to allow cooperatives not only to repair and modernize their premises, but also to build new ones with the help of bank credit. To solve the problem of credit repayment by insolvent cooperative members, it will probably be necessary to legislate on stepping up their personal liability.

Minister Views Needed Improvements in Forestry

PM251211 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 22 Mar 88 p 1

[Interview with M.I. Busygin, USSR minister of the timber industry, by own correspondent A. Yevgenyev: "Complexes Are the Goal"; date and place not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] As has already been announced, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo has reviewed the question of improving the management of forestry and the timber industry. Following a government decision a USSR Union-Republic State Committee for Forests (Goskomles) and a USSR Union-Republic Ministry of the Timber Industry (USSR Minlesprom) have been set up on the basis of existing management organs. Our correspondent A. Yevgenyev met M.I. Busygin, minister of the timber industry, and asked him some questions.

[Yevgenyev] Mikhail Ivanovich, what has caused the transformation of the sector's structure?

[Busygin] It is well known that our country has plenty of forests. One-fourth of world timber stocks are concentrated on its territory. Nevertheless the economy's requirements for timber materials are not being met. We obtain three times less—in monetary terms—prepared output from each cubic meter of raw material than, for instance, the United States. A fair amount is lost at the forest lots and in transportation. Typically, even in those oblasts where timber stocks amount to hundreds of millions of cubic meters, people often do not think about how to make better use of local reserves but try to "prize" resources out of union organs.

Many problems have also accumulated in forestry. Foresters are not managing to replant felled areas in good time. The pedigree of the forests is deteriorating.

The isolated existence of the timber industry and forestry has led to dissipation of material and human resources and to unwarranted duplication of functions. Lack of coordination and a narrowly departmental approach to resolving many problems have seriously retarded the development of the entire timber complex.

[Yevgenyev] What is fundamentally new in the resolution that has been adopted in this context?

[Busygin] I would point out several elements. First, the practice of assigning forests to foresters. What happened before? State procurement officers were allocated a raw material base intended to be worked over 20-40 years. If the resources ran out, you moved on to a new spot. This, naturally, engendered a timeserver mentality in some people and did not induce them to conduct business in a diligent fashion. Now all the forests are being handed

over to enterprises on long leases under constant use principles. Thus the lessee will bear the responsibility not only for felling but also for sowing, planting, and protecting the plantations.

Hence the next step—forestry establishments and timber procurement establishments operating in one area are amalgamated into timber enterprise complexes with a common plan and with common resources. By their nature complexes are not only vitally interested in securing the maximum return per hectare of forest today but are also forced to take care of tomorrow. Otherwise, in time, they will simply be left without raw materials. In short, the principles of timber production organization that proved their worth splendidly in the Carpathians and have been approved by the party Central Committee are being extended everywhere. Until recently there were not many more than 100 such enterprises in the sector. Today all timber procurement establishments in 28 krays, oblasts, and autonomous republics where timber procurement is carried out by the ministry are being given the status of permanently functioning enterprise complexes. Such establishments are also being formed in other areas of the country within the Ministry of the Timber Industry systems of the RSFSR and other union republics.

I will also point out that from now on union republic leaders, along with central sector organs, have the right to independently decide which structure is the most acceptable in their region. If deemed necessary, they can create a unified forestry and timber industry management organ in their republics.

[Yevgenyev] Won't the amalgamation of felling and growing enterprises lead to lack of supervision of the use of the uncut timber? Forestry organs were previously monitored.

[Busygin] This function is the USSR Union-Republic State Committee for Forests' most important prerogative. Freed from many production concerns, it will undoubtedly be able to devote greater attention to it. Moreover, the USSR State Committee for Nature Protection and local soviet ispolkoms will monitor the activity of the enterprise complexes.

[Yevgenyev] The resolution on improving the structure of the timber complex will set the ministry new tasks...

[Busygin] And very difficult ones. It is now thought most important to form grass roots production links promptly.

If we are talking about the future, there is a whole host of work there. Nondepletive utilization of timber is incompatible with excessive felling of the areas allocated.

Tree thinning will have to be efficiently organized, because this could produce millions of cubic meters of extra raw timber and serve as a means of forming the high-quality forests of the future.

It is quite obvious that there can be no question of progress if we do not put an end to forestry workers' technical backwardness.

Finally, for future comprehensive enterprises it will be exceptionally necessary to utilize the poor-quality raw material and waste in processing. Next year timber complexes are to begin working on the principles of self-capitalization and self-financing.

Agricultural

Further Report on Collective Farmers Congress

Hungary's Szabo Speaks

PM291215 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Mar 88 p 6

[Address by Istvan Szabo, MSZMP Politburo member and chairman of the Hungarian National Council of Agricultural Production Cooperatives, at the 24 March session of the Fourth All-Union Congress of Collective Farmers held in the Kremlin]

[Text] Esteemed congress, dear comrades!

With my whole heart and a sense of profound respect I greet the Fourth All-Union Congress of Kolkhoz Members on behalf of the cooperative and peasant movement of the European countries. (applause)

Allow me to convey cordial greetings to you and to the many millions of kolkhoz members and employees represented here from the MSZMP Central Committee, the government, working people at Hungarian production cooperatives and state farms, and from workers in other sectors of Hungarian agriculture.

We listened with great attention to the speech by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and wholly agreed with the ideas he put forward. All of us working in Hungarian agriculture and in cooperative movements make a very high assessment of the achievements of Soviet kolkhozes.

During the socialist reorganization of our country's agriculture we proceeded on the basis of the Leninist principles of the cooperative system [kooperirovaniye] and the multifaceted potential of cooperative forms.

The application of kolkhozes' practical experience of economic management has helped Hungarian agricultural cooperatives and major collective farms to take tfheir first steps.

In our preparations for this congress we were greatly helped by our participation in the international conference which examined questions of the cooperative system. This conference was held at the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences in Moscow in January. We obtained a great deal of useful information and regretted the fact that similar meetings had not been

held before. Along with the invitation to your congress we also obtained at the same time the draft kolkhoz Model Charter, which we studied. Based on this we formed the impression that kolkhozes and Hungarian agricultural production cooperatives are currently developing in equal measure in the direction of an increasingly extensive dissemination of the principles of kolkhoz democracy.

Since our country's liberation, and particularly over the last 25 years, our ties have become interwoven with thousands of links equally covering different levels of practice and theory. We have learned a great deal from you, while avoiding mechanical repetition, and have striven to ensure that the experience acquired from you is adapted as effectively as possible to our country's conditions. This line of ours is confirmed by the results we have achieved. In Hungary approximately 70 percent of agricultural output is produced by agricultural cooperatives and the homestead plots and small farms closely linked with them. Thus, they play a determining role in Hungarian agriculture.

Our achievements can be most graphically described by the fact that for many years now we have been supplying more and more quality products to meet the demand from our country's population. At the same time one-third of our agricultural products are sold in the foreign market, and half of this amount is sold in the socialist market.

It was a long hard road until we achieved the present level in the provision of the material and technical prerequisites for production, in the utilization of scientific achievements, in the development of the system of relationships between large and small farms, and in the improvement of the work on self-management.

We can say in all modesty that there are currently no problems in Hungary regarding the supply of foodstuffs, and food exports are expanding. However, we can in no way be satisfied. Although we have achieved considerable successes in per capita meat and grain production, the quality, packaging, and storage life of our products still lag far behind the demands of the domestic and foreign markets. In many cases the scale of spending has not yet reached the level necessary for competitiveness.

Esteemed comrades! Your all-union congress is being held at a time when the Soviet Union is imbued with new ideas—the ideas of restructuring and new thinking. During this restructuring a frank dialogue is under way not only between the party, state leadership, and broad sections of the Soviet people. Relations between the Soviet Union and peoples living in other parts of the world are becoming more open and sincere. The best example of this is the atmosphere and the results of the Washington summit, which gratified all peace-loving people. Today, as in 1917 or during the patriotic war, progressive mankind is following the events taking place in the Soviet Union.

Your party has again grasped the initiative on the main problems of greatest interest to public opinion, has galvanized all of society, and, making glasnost an obligatory norm, is boldly talking about mistakes.

Our people are following events in your country with great attention. Apart from anything else we are compelled to do so by two weighty reasons: On the one hand, it is clear to us that the stable strengthening of peace for all mankind has come fundamentally closer and become realistic; while, on the other hand, the vital interests of the Hungarian nation lie in good relations with the socialist countries and countries with different socioeconomic systems, and in equal cooperation based on equal advantage.

All of us working in the production cooperative movement naturally devote particular attention to the significance of restructuring in agriculture. In this regard there have been reports of important and bold initiatives, and this fills us with joy.

I am referring to the dissemination along with major enterprises of forms of collective enterprise and family contracts, which are already producing very positive results thanks to the more direct sense of personal interest.

Glasnost and the dissemination of kolkhoz democracy will naturally release great motive forces. On behalf of our delegation we wish you further successes in your work and in the implementation of the resolutions you adopt. (applause)

Address by Komsomol's Mironenko

PM291408 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Mar 88 p 5

[Speech delivered by V.I. Mironenko, first secretary of the All-Union Lenin Komsomol Central Committee, at 25 March session of Fourth All-Union Congress of Collective Farmers in the Kremlin]

[Text] Esteemed comrade delegates! Esteemed guests of the congress! Listening to Mikhail Sergeyevich's speech with you the day before yesterday, I reflected that as time goes by, the underlying intention of our restructuring—to place people at the center of party policy—becomes ever clearer and more distinct. The Soviet peasantry have literally suffered to win such a policy. We should all bow down before the countryside and all help it to resolve its urgent tasks, whether voiced at the congress or not. (applause)

Many things are urgent. But among all the problems, one of the most important was constantly present both in the report and in nearly every speech: young people—the future of our countryside. I do not know whether you noticed that in the report of the congress credentials commission the chairman twice "approached" the question of young delegates, but never gave a figure. We

thank him, this figure would doubtless have done nothing either for us or for you. It would reflect the alarming demographic processes taking place in the countryside.

We observed this long ago. We tried to rectify the state of affairs, and in some places we succeeded. But there has been no breakthrough. It is not only because in many respects for a young person, especially before he has formed his own family and had children of his own, before he has spent some time "wandering" from hostel to hostel, city life looks more attractive to him. The main reason, in our view, is that often he has not seen the prospects for his own farm or felt himself to be its master. Therefore, we warmly support the clearly emerging line of restoring the Leninist idea on the cooperative system in general and the agricultural cooperative system in particular.

I am confident that all 3 million young Komsomol kolkhoz members will wholeheartedly approve and support this party line. We believe the decisions adopted by the congress and the Law on the Cooperative System will create a real opportunity for them by their own efforts, with the help of city Komsomol members and young scientists, to restructure and organize their own lives in such a way that there will soon be as much competition to enter a kolkhoz as to enter, for instance, the Institute of International Relations. Perhaps you think this task is unrealistic? But it can be done!

Two years ago KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published some addresses of farms, far from the best farms, in the Russian non-Chernozem Zone, together with the proposal to go and live in the countryside. There were many skeptics who said: First build the housing, roads, schools, kindergartens, otherwise they will not go—they go where things are best!

Do you know how many people responded to these items? You will not believe it—about 100,000 people and families!

So it turned out that we knew nothing about the real feelings of young people or about the extent of the desire for independence, the wish to begin living in your own home at last. I think we have found a way to channel young people's energy into the transformation of the countryside. But comrades, let us also remember that any initiative can be stifled if you fail to perceive its usefulness or back it up economically in good time.

Of the young people who responded to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's action "I Choose To Live in the Countryside," 80,000 have not yet received a summons from a farm!

So what, then, is the value of certain leaders' complaints about the departure of young people or the shortage of manpower?

Let us recollect, how often do we, in drawing up socioeconomic development plans, consult with young people themselves, with their organization? My dear chairmen and chief specialists, recollect, when was the last time you had a heart-to-heart talk with the Komsomol members or shared your plans and problems with them?

Another problem, of course, was the "impotence" of many Komsomol organizations and the fact that the Komsomol committees increasingly often discussed figures, while young people and their real problems were pushed into the background and became some kind of faceless mass which must be "retained" (what a word they dreamed up!) in the countryside. But what is needed is not to "retain" them, but to think about them! To show concern in practice, not only verbally.

At the end of last year KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA received an unusual proposal from Kostroma Komsomol Obkom—to publish a list of farms in the oblast where there are more bachelors than unmarried girls. The people in Kostroma rightly thought: You cannot breathe life into dying villages only by building new houses, however well appointed. You also have to build human destinies.

Less than 3 months have elapsed. I will tell you in confidence, more than 8,000 girls have already responded to the invitations published in the newspaper. And what girls! Good looking, hard workers. I do not think the guys in Kostroma will be able to resist them! (applause)

Or take the problem of abandoned houses in rural localities. There are hundreds of thousands of them, mostly on economically weak farms. Young people are perfectly capable of restoring that housing. There is wide scope there for the application of the collective and family contract! Have no doubt—there would be thousands of willing participants, if only the kolkhozes' leadership had the will to tackle the matter properly.

Nor can it be considered a normal situation when a young person is a rarity among middle-level leaders, while among farm leaders he would be a unique phenomenon.

We are grateful to the illustrious leaders like Starodubtsev, Bedula, and Golovatskiy, who opened schools for young leaders on their farms. But we would like there to be such schools everywhere today.

I expect many of the delegates, in their day, "mounted the iron horse"—the tractor. For the present generation, the task is even more complex—to "harness" the scientific and technical revolution to agricultural production. But even that is within their powers! There are already plenty of enthusiasts, but there was no mechanism to ensure the implementation of interesting ideas. One has

now been created—the state and social system of young people's scientific and technical creativity. Its first steps are very encouraging, in agriculture as well as other spheres.

A year ago young scientists at the Siberian Department of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences created the "Quest" ad hoc creative youth collective. It drew up a comprehensive program for resolving the economic and social problems of the kolkhoz under its patronage, the Lenin Kolkhoz in Kolyvanskiy Rayon, Novosibirsk Oblast. The young scientists helped the farm specialists to master a new technique for raising calves and the progressive free-range system for keeping livestock and to organize selection and breed improvement work.

Every day there will be more such collectives. We appeal to the farm leaders: Do not neglect their services, they can do much.

Vocational training. That is the litmus paper for assessing the attitude of economic leaders, teachers, and Komsomol organizations to the future of the countryside. The choice depends crucially on how the schoolchildren's production labor is organized, because here they acquire not only professional skills, but also a sense of involvement in the affairs of the collective and of society as a whole.

These things might seem obvious. But why, to this day, do certain kolkhoz chairmen talk about the difficulties of the school reform as if they were casual observers, without applying its requirements to themselves? It is high time they realized that student production teams should be allocated land, machinery, fertilizers, and the best mentors not out of their own "generosity" as chairmen, but out of a clear awareness that the farm's future is today sitting at desks in the kolkhoz school.

On the eve of the congress a meeting with young delegates took place at the Komsomol Central Committee. We saw once again what fine, interesting people they are. I would like to say to you again that in your constant concern for those who will live in your home and how they will live their, in your concern for the future of the Soviet countryside, you will always find an ally and helper in the Komsomol. (applause)

Moscow Meeting Discusses Livestock Losses

LD311239 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] A collegium session took place in Moscow today, under the chairmanship of USSR Procurator General Rekunkov. It discussed the implementation of legislation on the safekeeping of socialist property in public sector livestock farming. It was noted that the state of affairs in this sphere is slowly changing for the better. An irresponsible attitude to the safekeeping of livestock annually causes more than R1.5 billion in losses to the state. Such incidents have become particularly frequent in Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Georgia, and many RSFSR oblasts. Thirty percent of all incidents of misappropriation and other infringements of the law registered in agriculture currently take place in animal husbandry. In Kazakhstan's Semipalatinsk Oblast alone, almost 37,000 head of cattle have been misappropriated or lost through mismanagement in the last 2 years, while losses caused by murrain have topped R50 million. A total of 120 managers, specialists, and people with material responsibility have faced criminal charges for mercenary crimes. Leading officials of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee and the agro-industrial complex of Semipalatinsk Oblast were invited to the collegium and offered explanations.

Scientific

Gorizont Communications, TV Satellite Launched

LD010736 Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—The Soviet Union on March 31 launched another satellite in the Gorizont series in keeping with a program for developing communications systems and television broadcasting with the use of satellites.

The satellite was delivered by a Proton booster to an almost stationary circular orbit with the following initial parameters:

Distance from earth—36,560 kilometers.

Period of revolution—24 hours 36 minutes.

Inclination—1.3 degrees.

The equipment installed on the Gorizont satellite is functioning normally. A command-and-measuring complex is controlling the satellite. The use of the satellite's communications and television equipment will be made under the program.

Cosmonauts Continue Exoatmospheric Studies

LD011031 Moscow TASS in English 1009 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov began their working day today at nine o'clock in the morning Moscow time. Their program for the day includes astrophysics and technical experiments, medical checks, and physical exercise.

They are continuing experiments involving the orbital observatory Roentgen under an international program for exoatmospheric astronomy studies. The observatory's telescopes today are trained on the X-ray radiation source Swan X-1.

The X-ray telescopes are zeroed in on the objects of study with a high degree of precision automatically by dint of gyroscopic stabilizers of the Kvant (Quantum) module and on-board computers.

Using navigational aids, the spacemen periodically check their platform's orientation and make adjustments in the automatic systems, if need be.

Using a magnetic spectrometer called Maria, they will today conduct a series of experiments to study the generation of high-energy particles in the radiation belts of earth and near-terrestrial space.

According to telemetry data and the crew's own reports, the on-board systems of the orbiting platform Mir are functioning normally.

Titov and Manarov are feeling well.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Ukrainian Science Session

LD291424 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The economic value of the implementation of the research of Ukrainian scientists was over R1 billion last year. This was achieved as a result of strengthening the ties of science with production and the search for new forms of integration within the framework of the industrial scientific and technical complexes, engineering centers, and supply bases. These facts were cited at the session of the General Assembly of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences which opened in Kiev today.

The report by Academician Paton, president of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR and the addresses noted that the activity of the academy during the period under review was aimed at deepening restructuring and concentrating on the priority directions for scientific and technical progress. In comprehensively analyzing what has been done, those taking part in the meeting stressed the need to set up the basic technologies which would bring about fundamental changes in modern production and whole branches of industry.

They paid great attention to ecological issues. There was also discussion of the problem of training scientific cadres and educating creative youth.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, and other republican leaders took part in the work of the assembly.

New Storage Racks for Spent Nuclear Fuel

LD301005 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0230 GMT 30 Mar 88

[From the "120 Minutes" program]

[Text] The Izhorskiy Zavod Association has begun the production of facilities for the storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel. Dmitriy Dadayev reports: [video shows two men tightening bolts in stack of hexagonal finned metal tubes, polishing horizontal sheet of metal with circular holes cut in it]

[Dadayev] Storage racks. Naturally, they exist at every operational atomic power station. However, over the years more and more spent nuclear fuel is being accumulated, and the area for storage is limited. Now new storage racks are to replace the old ones. In design, they outwardly resemble honeycombs; as a result, a storage rack equal in size to an existing one can accommodate twice as many fuel rods, with the same absolute safety.

[Unidentified man] In order to produce this design, it was necessary to create a new steel, master the smelting of this steel, and manufacture the special hexagonal casing tubes. Scientists from Moscow and Chelyabinsk institutes, Chelyabinsk enterprises—the metallurgical works and the pipel-rolling mill—were involved. They worked together with us.

[Dadayev, over shots of welding work inside large tubular canister, exterior views of canister and people around it] However capacious the storage racks may be, there is no need to accumulate spent nuclear fuel at atomic power stations, all the more since it should be reprocessed. And so, the Izhora workers have built transportation containers for the first time to carry it to the reprocessing enterprises. Taking into consideration the density with which the cassettes are packed, the container is also manufactured using the newly-created steel, with the necessary characteristics to ensure safety. Thus, the problem of storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel will be completely solved.